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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

‘Free Sharon Kowlaski Day’ events draw national attention

Public support for Kowalski and her lover, Karen Thomipson, grows as court-ordered competency tests for Kowalski appear likely to become a reality

By Jennie McKnight

WASHINGTON — Over a thousand lesbians, gay men, disabled rights activists and their supporters took part in nationwide celebrations of disabled lesbian Sharon Kowalski's 32nd birthday on Sunday, Aug.

mainstream media coverage of Kowalski's case. "For the first time in three years [since support committees were first organized around the country] we have broken through the brick wall in terms of the



NOW President Molly Yard at Kowalski rally in D.C., Aug. 7

7. "Free Sharon Kowalski Day" events took place in 21 cities to show support for Kowalski, who was severely injured in an accident in 1983 and has been prevented from seeing her lover, Karen Thompson, since a judge awarded legal guardianship to Kowalski's father over three years ago. (See GCN, Vol. 15, No. 34.)

The nationally coordinated events were designed also to bring media attention to Kowalski's situation, since legal efforts by Thompson to visit and care for Kowalski have been thwarted. "We're still trying to gather all the information about the different activities around the country," said Caroline Foty, media co-chair of the National Free Sharon Kowalski Committee. "One of the reasons it's taking a while is that it was such an unbelievable success," she added.

Tacie Dejanikus, coordinator of the National Committee, said she had contacted people who had participated in 14 of the 21 nationwide events. She said the nature of the events varied from public rallies, like those held in Washington, San Francisco, and Nashville, Tenn., to small birthday parties held in private homes. Part of the activities, she said, included sending Kowalski birthday cards, which garnered over 1500 signatures.

Dejanikus said the birthday events resulted in a major breakthrough in

mainstream media," she said, citing recent coverage by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *St. Petersburg Times* and *Newsday*. In addition to coverage in the print media, Dejanikus said Karen Thompson has been deluged by calls from radio shows requesting interviews.

Dejanikus expressed enthusiasm about the growing strength of the national support of Kowalski and Thompson. She said that four new chapters of the Committee had formed during the planning for the Aug. 7 activities.

Another new development that has strengthened public support for Kowalski and Thompson, according to Dejanikus, is Donald Kowalski's recent public statements about his daughter and Thompson. In recent weeks Donald Kowalski was quoted in several mainstream news reports attacking Thompson, calling her "an animal" who "should have been locked up a long time ago." He was also quoted as calling his daughter a "helpless victim" and saying Thompson will never be granted guardianship of Kowalski because "there ain't a law in the United States that allows a lesbian relationship."

An issue that affects everyone

Some of the recent organized efforts to

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ACT UP zaps Fisons Co.

Pharmaceutical giant accused of withholding important information about aerosolized pentamidine

By Chris Bull

BEDFORD, Mass. — "R.I.P. Brother, Sister, Friend, Lover, Unknown," read the cardboard tombstones in a mock cemetery set up by ACT UP/Boston on the front lawn of Fisons Pharmaceutical Corporation Aug. 4. In an audacious display of guerrilla theater, six ACT UP pallbearers, carrying a black coffin, led a procession of sign-toting protesters through the cemetery to the front door of the company, where they demanded a meeting with Fisons officials. ACT UP charges that Fisons, one of the largest pharmaceutical corporations in the world, is withholding vital information about aerosolized pentamidine (AP), a drug widely believed to effectively prevent and treat pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). PCP is the most common cause of death among people with AIDS (PWAs). (See GCN, Vol. 15, No. 46)

Fisons is competing with LyphoMed Corporation, another pharmaceutical giant, for licensing of AP from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with the winner controlling a multimillion dollar annual market for the drug. Because AP is considered an experimental treatment by the FDA, Fisons and LyphoMed must submit data about the treatment's effectiveness to be granted licensing. In dozens of clinical trials sponsored by Fisons around the country, important data about effective dosage, frequency of treatment and other information is being collected.

But Fisons officials have refused to release any of this information about AP, citing their need to protect what they term their "proprietary interests." Cut-throat competition between the two companies, according to Steven Busby of ACT UP, has resulted in the withholding of "information that PWAs need in order to survive."

"It's a fucked up system when private industry is relied upon to meet a health crisis. We can no longer continue to make decisions based on the profit motive rather than on public health," said Busby.

ACT UP demands information

ACT UP distributed a list of demands at the protest, stating that Fisons must:

- Provide clinical trial listings for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) Directory. The Directory allows PWAs to locate clinical trials, often the only sources of life-prolonging AIDS treatments. ACT UP member Ray Schmidt said he believes Fisons is hiding pertinent information from its competitor, LymphoMed, in order to be the first to report its findings to the FDA in the fall.

- Loosen eligibility requirements for AP trials. PWAs who have other opportunistic infections in addition to PCP can be excluded from trials in order to maintain the "purity" of research results. As a result, many PWAs must find other ways to obtain the drug or go without it. "To be excluded from a potentially life-saving study can be devastating to a person with AIDS," states the ACT UP press release. ACT UP advocates "ethical" research that does not leave some PWAs without treatment for PCP.

- Provide more detailed information about how AP is most effectively administered. For example, because pentamidine is more effective in aerosolized form, a machine called a nebulizer is needed to turn the liquid pentamidine into tiny droplets which are then inhaled directly into the lungs. However, there are several different nebulizers on the market, and PWAs must know which is most effective. Also, the size of the droplet administered in treatment is crucial to the treatment's effectiveness. Improper administration of the drug could lead to dangerous side effects or ineffectiveness. So far, Fisons refuses to release any preliminary data.

ACT UP meets with Fisons official

After a half-hour demonstration in the blistering afternoon heat of Fisons' parking lot, three members of ACT UP were invited

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Quote of the week

“We have a lot of gay religious groups. Dignity. MCC. But now we have a new one. It’s called GOD: Gay Opportunists for Dukakis.”
— Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton, as quoted in the New York Native.

Gerstell throws in the towel on Senate bid

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — State Senate candidate Mimi Gerstell told the audience at a Progressive Forum debate that she has suspended her campaign. The July 28 announcement came just two days after the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (GBL/GPA) failed to endorse the openly lesbian Gerstell, throwing their support instead to Michael LoPresti, the incumbent in the Suffolk/Middlesex district race. Gerstell, whose campaign was marked by progressive viewpoints on women’s and lesbian/gay issues, said she would leave her name on the ballot, but cease campaigning actively.
According to the *Tab*, a Boston newsweekly, Gerstell expressed interest in focusing her political energies elsewhere. Claiming she was unlikely to win other endorsements since she did not nab GBL/GPA’s support, Gerstell said she would become involved in other campaigns of benefit to the community. Gerstell explained it was too early to speculate about any future political aspirations.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

Pat Norman tosses hat in ring

SAN FRANCISCO — Longtime Black lesbian activist Pat Norman announced her bid for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on July 28. Norman joins a field of 16 candidates — five of whom are incumbents — vying for six seats on the board. All of the 11 Supervisors are elected on an at-large basis.
Irit Levi, Norman’s campaign manager, told *GCN* she thought Norman’s chances of winning were very good. “It will be a real horse-race,” Levi said, adding that the campaign will be especially interesting since incumbent John Molinari dropped out of the



Candidate Pat Norman (L) and her supporters file petitions to enter S.F. Supervisor race. Molinari, a 17-year member of the board, was trounced earlier this year in his mayoral bid against Art Agnos.
Norman distributed a position paper at her announcement, pointing out her commitments to people who have been “excluded from real opportunity.” Norman put forth her views about how to effectively control drugs, combat AIDS, eradicate violence, and establish just economic policy.
Norman recently returned from the Atlanta Democratic Convention, where she co-chaired the Lesbian/Gay Caucus.
For more information about Norman’s campaign, write to her campaign headquarters at P.O. Box 410955, San Francisco, CA 94141-0955; or call, (415) 641-0146.

□ Jennie McKnight

The pill and HIV

STOCKHOLM — Researchers at the Fourth International Conference on AIDS reported that prostitutes in Africa who use birth control pills are two to three times more likely than other prostitutes to become

infected with HIV. According to the *Boston Herald*, the researchers are not sure why birth control pills increase a woman’s risk of becoming infected, but noted that the pills can produce vaginal conditions that might serve as entry point for the virus into the bloodstream.

□ Lori Kenschaft

Poll shows many NJ residents favor free health care for PWAs

TRENTON, N.J. — Most New Jersey residents believe people with AIDS (PWAs) should receive free medical care or at least should share medical costs with the government. The Citizen’s Committee on Biomedical Ethics in two separate surveys found 46 percent of the people who live in New Jersey believe PWAs should be entitled to free health care and 33 percent feel the cost of treatment for PWAs should be offset by the government. T. Patrick Hill, spokesperson for the committee, told the *New York Times* that the survey results came as something of a surprise, “because the two groups prominently identified with the disease — homosexuals and IV drug users — are not often greeted with a great deal of sympathy. It certainly is a sign of compassion and concern.”

□ Paul-David Wadler

NY issues HIV infection statistics

ALBANY, N.Y. — In the most comprehensive study of HIV infection rates to date, New York State officials discovered a sharp contrast in HIV infection rates by race, sex, residence, and IV drug history. The data were drawn from 141,000 anonymous blood tests including every baby born in New York State, specialized groups of prisoners, and family planning and STD clinic patients.
Antibody tests of newborns reflect the antibody status of the mothers. Only about 40 percent of “HIV positive” newborns are expected to produce their own HIV antibodies after the first 18 months of life; the others were, presumably, not infected with the virus. In the study, Black women giving birth were 13 times more likely than white women to test antibody positive. (The rate was 1 in 57 for Black women; 1 in 781 for white women.) Infection rates in the Bronx were triple those of Queens and Staten Island.
Of adults tested, men were three times more likely to be antibody positive than women. Of people who acknowledged IV drug use, 44.1 percent tested antibody positive compared to 7.3 percent of those who said they had never used IV drugs. Among drug users, 54.6 percent of those who said they shared needles tested positive as opposed to 37.3 percent who said they did not share.

□ Paul-David Wadler

ACT UP/LA demands AIDS ward

LOS ANGELES — Nearly 100 people descended on County/USC Hospital in Los Angeles July 9 to demand that the facility install an AIDS unit. In addition to the picket, over 30 of the protesters kept an all-night vigil in a mock AIDS unit they erected on hospital grounds.
The action was the second organized by ACT UP/LA to protest the lack of an AIDS unit at County/USC Hospital. The first demonstration occurred April 30, shortly after the County AIDS Commission empowered a task force to report on the feasibility of creating an AIDS ward.
Currently, a person with AIDS or AIDS-related complex is admitted to hospital wards according to the opportunistic infection he or she has at the time. For example, a person diagnosed with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia would be placed in the respiratory ward if a bed is available. If the ward is full, the patient would be placed in any available space.
Peter Cushman of ACT UP/LA said an AIDS ward would attract health care pro-

viders who could treat the many infections a PWA or PWARC may have at one time, not just one infection. He also noted that patient morale would improve due to the proximity of many people dealing with the same syndrome. Patients admitted to the ward more than once would be familiar with the facilities and the staff.
Dedicated AIDS units have proved to be successful in many local private hospitals and at San Francisco’s General Hospital.
In the wake of the protests, sources close to hospital officials said administrators and senior hospital officials agreed to support creation of an AIDS ward.
Despite growing support, the County AIDS Commission July 15 gave the Dedicated AIDS Unit Task Force an additional 60 days to report on the feasibility of installing an AIDS unit at the hospital. The task force originally had from April 15 to July 15, 90 days, to make its report. However, the task force failed to meet once during that time.

□ John A. Fall

Les/gay helpline to open in Boston

BOSTON — A new telephone information service, dubbed the Gay and Lesbian Helpline, will open here in mid-September. Operated by the Fenway Community Health Center (FCHC), the Helpline replaces the lesbian/gay hotline formerly run by Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services (GLCS). Helpline organizers plan to offer a wide range of phone services including referral, counseling and community information.
According to Lee Ellenberg, FCHC’s director of community services, FCHC has received a marked increase in requests for referrals and assistance since the previous lesbian/gay hotline closed last March. He said the new Helpline will initially be funded by FCHC general revenues, but grants and donor support will be sought for continued operations. About 15 volunteers from the old service will resume working with the Helpline, but more volunteers and a full-time coordinator are still needed.
The Helpline phone number and hours of operation have not been determined. Ellenberg said the Helpline will likely commence by offering service during evening hours, and expand to weekdays and weekends as soon as possible. For further information or to volunteer to staff the Helpline, call Lee Ellenberg at (617) 267-1538.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

Support group for Boston teens

BOSTON — A new support group has formed in the South End for lesbian and gay teenagers and young adults. The group, which meets Sunday evenings at the Project Place community center, is designed to offer young lesbians and gay men a forum for discussing their experiences and problems. Volunteer Liadain Pearlman organized the group, and facilitates the weekly meetings. According to Pearlman, group members help plan discussions and also organize other social activities.
About 10 people currently comprise the group, and new members are welcome. Call Project Place at (617) 262-3740 for more information.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

International queers confer in Oslo

OSLO — More than 100 delegates representing 45 organizations and 21 countries discussed homophobic discrimination worldwide and the political priorities of third world gay organizations at the 10th World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) in the Norwegian capital, June 26-July 2, 1988.
Demands by several Latin American delegates for greater participation by the European-dominated ILGA in other liberation struggles sparked the most controversial discussions at the conference. Latina/o delegates also called for more attention to the needs of new lesbian/gay groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, for a stronger ILGA organiza-

tional structure, and for greater visibility for the organization between its conferences.
The most contentious issue from earlier conferences — the membership of the white South Africa group GASA, which was suspended at last year’s conference in Cologne — was resolved by a report confirming that the group no longer exists.
Participants also took time to protest at the Austrian embassy against Paragraph 220 of that country’s penal code, which prohibits spreading positive information about homosexuality. A second demonstration at the National Greek Tourist Office targeted the prison sentence of a Greek man, Christos Roussos, who received a harsher punishment — which the Greek president has refused to reduce — because he is gay. Protest messages were sent to numerous governments condemning Mexico’s discriminatory treatment of PWAs and Japan’s enforced HIV testing for foreigners. ILGA members, especially non-Europeans, were urged to lobby Amnesty International following that group’s latest refusal to take on the cases of people arrested for their sexual orientation.
On a positive note, the Oslo conference approved a record number of new memberships (30), with the greatest areas of increase in Latin American and Eastern Europe, including a lesbian group from Chile and groups from Hungary and Nicaragua. Further conference messages praised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov for proposals to decriminalize homosexuality in the USSR, Norwegian King Olaf for being the first head of state to sign anti-discrimination laws protecting lesbians and gay men, and the Australian Committee Defending Black Rights for its support of aboriginal people. The ILGA also expressed support for gay South African Dr. Ivan Thoms, a conscientious objector sentenced to hard labor.
Other conference business included establishing regular contact with the International Lesbian Information Service, and applying for consultative status with the United Nations and the Council of Europe.
The conference’s closing statement, in addition to pointing out the chilling effects of Britain’s Clause 28 and the worldwide response to this homophobic legislation, noted several other developments since the last conference:
• In Singapore, police have ordered bars and restaurants to exclude gay people.
• AIDS-related media hysteria has increased pressure against the lesbian/gay rights movement throughout the world, from Mexico to Ireland to India.
• Homosexuality has been decriminalized in Liechtenstein and Israel. The Hungarian government has officially recognized a lesbian/gay organization, while similar moves seem close at hand in Poland and the Soviet Union.
• The Danish parliament has take initial steps toward approving homosexual marriages.
• The Second Edition of the ILGA *Pink Book*, a country-by-country survey of the worldwide gay and lesbian movement reveals that only five percent of all countries have lesbian/gay legal protections in place.

□ Dan Page

NEWSNOTES COMPILED BY
JENNIE McKNIGHT

Choosing between the evil of two lessers

Mass. forum discusses Dukakis, Bush, AIDS, foster care and a new community agenda

By Mike Friedman

BOSTON — Nearly 100 people attended a forum July 28 on the response of the lesbian/gay community to the presidential race and the candidacy of Democratic Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis. Titled “Choosing Between the Evil of Two Lessers,” the forum was co-sponsored by local activist groups, the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC) and MASS ACT OUT, and came just two weeks after Dukakis and Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen were nominated for the presidency and vice-presidency at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. Many people in the community have expressed dismay at having to choose between a continuation of the eight years of Reaganism represented by George Bush, and the homophobia represented by Dukakis.

The lesbian and gay community’s problems with Dukakis were further dramatized the day before the forum, when the *Boston Herald* revealed, in a front page story, that Dukakis had signed his infamous policy of disallowing lesbian and gay foster parents into law. (See *GCN*, Vol. 16, No. 4)

Moderated by ACT OUT and GLDC members Jade McGleughlin and John Whyte, the forum was intended to serve as an avenue for discussion of the issues that are confronting us in the upcoming election. In opening the meeting, Whyte and McGleughlin suggested to the group that it might be more valuable to use the forum as a discussion of a lesbian/gay agenda and to focus on such topics as holding our leadership accountable to the community, rather than simply discussing “who to vote for.” Whyte repudiated openly gay Congressman Barney Frank’s recent comparison of supporting Michael Dukakis to being in a bar five minutes to closing time, and having to choose who to go home with. “What’s wrong with going home alone?” Whyte asked.

Following opening remarks by the moderators were three speakers from community groups, Margaret Cerullo of MASS ACT OUT and GLDC, Steve Busby of ACT UP/Boston and French Wall, editor of *The Guide to the Gay Northeast*.

Busby began by telling the audience of his problems with a community health center near his home in Mattapan which refused to treat him for a cold last year until he could

prove he had tested negative for HIV antibodies (HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS.) He stressed that this policy indicated that a person with AIDS (PWA) in Mattapan would be unable to receive treatment in his/her community. He also discussed the situation of the overwhelming number of people in this country who do not have any health insurance, and pointed out that the medical establishment has taken gay men for granted, by using them as “compliant and helpful,” but “disposable” subjects. He pointed out that the policies of the current administrations (both state and federal) are to “test people, not treatments.”

Wall echoed his editorial in the August issue of *The Guide*, urging lesbians and gay men not to vote in the presidential race at all, pointing out that Dukakis had threatened the state’s AIDS budget in 1985 because of heat from lesbians and gay men opposed to his policy on foster care. Wall asked, “Is it politically viable for a Democratic presidential nominee to attack the rights and dignity of gay and lesbian people?” Wall criticized Dukakis for choosing Bentsen as his running mate, saying Bentsen had voted for legislation to gut the D.C. Human Rights Ordinance, for mandatory HIV antibody testing, and in favor of U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms’ (R-N.C.) amendment banning funding of AIDS educational materials that “promote” homosexuality. Wall also suggested that, in a close race, low turnout of lesbians and gay men could make the difference, especially in places like California. “[...]he Democrats [would] forever learn that attacking gay and lesbian rights is political suicide,” said Wall.

Cerullo approached the problem from a slightly different perspective, trying to probe the relationship between electoral politics and social movements. She argued that while electoral politics often swallow up social movements, this is not always the case. She also suggested that opposing George Bush did not translate into support for Michael Dukakis, and that lesbians and gay men must concentrate on our own agenda, and show how that agenda is different from Dukakis’ agenda. Cerullo argued that in the past, the right wing has been allowed

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Homophobic amendment to AIDS bill vetoed

\$1.2 billion AIDS appropriations bill expected to pass before Congress adjourns

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A U.S. Senate-House conference committee Aug. 9 rejected a viciously homophobic amendment to the \$1.2 billion Health and Human Services AIDS bill, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), that would forbid federal funding of AIDS education programs that “promote or encourage homosexuality” or use “words stating that homosexuality is ‘normal,’ ‘natural,’ or ‘healthy.’”

The Senate originally voted 82 to 15 on Aug. 3 in favor of the amendment, introduced by Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.). The Senate also voted 47-46 to table a similarly worded amendment introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). Adopted by the House last year, Helms’ amendment would have continued a ban on federal funding for AIDS educational material that “promotes, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual behavior.”

Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), said Humphrey was able to steer the debate away from AIDS education to whether or not homosexuality is “normal” or “natural.” “When the debate is framed this way, we almost always lose,” Levi told *GCN*, adding “Homophobia is alive and well is the U.S. Senate.”

The House-Senate conference committee rejected the Humphrey amendment in favor of a compromise amendment offered by Sens. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and Kennedy. The Kennedy-Cranston amendment states that AIDS and other programs cannot be “designed to promote or encourage, directly, intravenous drug abuse or sexual activity, homosexual or heterosexual” and must be “designed to reduce exposure to and transmission of the etiologic agent for AIDS.” Levi credited Kennedy and

Cranston with designing an effective “preemptive” strategy to defeat Helms.

“We’re in better shape than we were a year ago. There are no major obstacles [in this legislation] to AIDS education from the federal level,” said Levi. He added that the bill included major increases in funding for AIDS research and prevention. The bill also includes \$5 million for community research initiatives (CRIs), which conduct clinical trials of promising AIDS treatments in conjunction with people with AIDS and their physicians.

Humphrey told the Senate he introduced the amendment to prevent federal funding for the “promotion of homosexuality.” He cited a \$160,000 federal grant to a New Hampshire family planning clinic, that advocates for lesbian and gay youth. Humphrey said one of the group’s manuals “casually reminds us that gays and lesbians are natural and normal, but when you consider the anatomical difficulties, I find that difficult to believe. Men and women fit together, men and men and women and women don’t.... There is nothing gay in this lifestyle. It is misleading to our youth.”

Only three senators — Lowell Weicker, (R-Conn.), Cranston and Kennedy — spoke against Humphrey. Cranston told the Senate, “Those attempts to hamstring public-health educational programs may be disguised in moralistic language. But the real truth — the bottom line — is that they will contribute to the further spread of this disease, more illness, and more death.”

The bill is expected to pass the House before Congress recesses next week, according to Murray Flander, spokesperson for Cranston. Flander said President Reagan has given no indication whether he will veto the bill if it is passed by Congress.

□filed from Boston

Volunteer in AIDS vaccine study files suit

In the first case of its kind, Mass. man was fired by bank after his participation in vaccine trial was revealed

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — A complaint has been brought before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) on behalf of a man who claims he was wrongfully fired from his job because his employer suspected him of being at risk for AIDS. Tom Crehore was dismissed on June 1 as vice president of creative services at The Commonwealth Group, Inc., an advertising and public relations agency owned and operated by Sentry Federal Savings Bank of Hyannis, Mass. The complaint, filed by Boston’s Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), alleges that Crehore was terminated by Sentry Bank after the company learned of his participation in an experimental AIDS vaccine test program sponsored by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

According to Denise McWilliams, director of GLAD’s AIDS Law Project and attorney for Crehore, this is the first AIDS discrimination case in the U.S. based on a person’s involvement in a vaccine test program. She explained that Crehore is a volunteer in a year-long, federally funded NIH study. Participation in the program required Crehore to undergo a rigorous series of tests which indicated he was not infected with HIV (a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS). Regardless of the test results, McWilliams explained, discrimination on the basis of HIV antibody status is illegal in Massachusetts.

“Even though Crehore does not have AIDS,” McWilliams said, “his participation in the vaccine trial was interpreted to mean that he had AIDS, or that he was at high risk for contracting the disease. Sentry Bank let him go only two weeks after becoming aware of his enrollment in the program. We believe there is a connection between these two events.”

McWilliams said Crehore had worked for The Commonwealth Group since March 1986. Prior to his firing, the company had expressed no dissatisfaction with Crehore’s work, according to McWilliams. In fact, he had received a promotional award not long before he was terminated. Crehore was not available for comment. Officials from Sentry Bank also declined to speak with *GCN*. McWilliams explained that at this early stage in the legal battle, she could not discuss further specifics of the case, such as whether or not Crehore seeks job reinstatement or other compensation.

Richard Davey, a medical officer in the intramural AIDS program at NIH, told *GCN* he is unaware of any other cases of alleged discrimination against volunteers in NIH studies. He said the NIH has offered Crehore and GLAD access to legal assistance from NIH counsel. “We don’t know the specifics of the lawsuit,” Davey said, “but we’re providing support — no one has ever before been fired or otherwise penalized for participating in an [NIH] trial.” He described Crehore as a healthy volunteer who has been involved in a safety toxicity study for an experimental AIDS vaccine.

McWilliams confirmed that the NIH issued a statement saying Crehore should not have been fired due to his participation in the trial.

GLAD filed its discrimination complaint against Sentry Bank on August 1. Responsibility for the complaint now lies with MCAD, which will investigate the case for “probable cause.” McWilliams explained that MCAD will seek evidence to confirm or deny that Crehore was a victim of AIDS-related discrimination. Depending on variables, McWilliams said the investigation could take as little as five weeks, or continue on for many months. □

A look at the life of Leonard Matlovich

Conservative gay rights activist sparked controversy in the gay community

By Michael Bronski

Once again his picture was in the newspapers and the national weeklies, only this time the headlines were of a more somber tone: “Leonard P. Matlovich, Gay Airman who Fought Ouster From Military, Dies of AIDS.” Matlovich, who brought the fight for gay rights to the cover of a 1975 *Time* magazine, died on the evening of June 22 at the home of a friend in West Hollywood. He was 44 years old.

Seeing Matlovich’s name in the obituaries made me remember the political struggles in the gay community about his case with the military and made me think about how my own feelings about Matlovich, Viet Nam

veterans and gay politics have changed over the years.

Born in 1943, the son of an Air Force Master Sergeant, Matlovich was a military brat who spent his youth on military bases throughout the world. At 19 he followed in his father’s footsteps and joined the Air Force, where he served for the next 12 years. For his combat in Viet Nam he was decorated three times, receiving a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and an Air Force Commendation Medal. Back in the U.S. in 1971, he became an instructor on race relations. During this time Matlovich came out and in 1975 with the encouragement of gay civil rights activist Frank Kameny, he publicly challenged the anti-gay discrimination policy of the U.S. military.

Matlovich was quickly discharged from the Air Force. He appealed the decision and spent six years in legal struggle with the military. During this time Matlovich also spoke out for gay civil rights — most notably against the Anita Bryant campaign and in California against the homophobic Briggs Initiative in 1977-1978. In 1980, a Federal court ruled that he was to be reinstated into the Air Force. Matlovich’s case at that point was not capable of creating any constitutional precedent and he settled out of court for \$160,000.

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Patsy Lynch

Matlovich’s military funeral at Arlington National Cemetery

GCN Job Openings

Staff Writer/Circulation Co-coordinator

Available in October: Research, investigate and write news stories primarily about Boston/New England, and as necessary, stories with a national scope. May include some analytical/feature writing as well. Share responsibilities with other staff writer for coordinating weekly mailing of paper and processing subscriptions. Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write several stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of local/national lesbian and gay community and issues helpful. Strong organizational and record-keeping skills and knowledge of data entry and/or computers also helpful. Deadline for application is September 2.

All GCN positions require a commitment to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues and a commitment to the collective decision-making process.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$200/wk and include eligibility for ADW Workers Trust health/life insurance, routine health care through Fenway Community Health Center, paid sick leave and four weeks annual paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply for this position, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

Typesetting Business Coordinator

Part-time position available end of August: Typeset monthly newsletters and journals on deadline, handle business accounts, promote business and attract new clients and coordinate volunteer typesetters as needed. Qualifications: experience typesetting (knowledge of Compugraphic Editwriter helpful), familiarity with or ability to learn light book-keeping, organizational skills and commitment to lesbian and gay liberation. Hours vary according to clients' schedules and range from 2-12 hours/week during weekday evenings and weekends. Hours may increase as business expands. Deadline for application is August 17.

Salary/Benefits: \$8/hour plus some benefits or \$10/hour without benefits.

To apply for this position, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

MAIL AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

After October 1988, GCN subscribers will occasionally be receiving material from other lesbian and gay organizations. As always, our mailing list will remain strictly confidential; all mailings will be conducted and controlled by GCN. If you do not want to receive information from these non-profit community groups, please write to GCN Promotions, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

THE NEWLYBED GAME

Join GCN on Friday, August 19, at 8 pm for an exciting ride through the wonderful world of gay male love and romance. Sponsored by Moonshine (209 Columbus Ave), the \$4 admission price will benefit GCN. See The Calendar (page 15) for other fun events during The Summer Games. Thanks, Toni Nuzzo and all the folks at Club Cabaret.

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Chicago Pride reporting inaccurate

Dear GCN:

In response to Michael Botkin's coverage of Chicago's 19th Annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade and Rally in a recent issue of GCN, I can only say that his reporting was inaccurate.

Chicago's parade and rally this year was the largest in the 19-year history of the event! The Police Department estimated 90,000 people (up 10,000 from last year). In Chicago, police estimates — which are notoriously low — include participants in the parade procession, as well as those along the parade route who usually join in the procession at the end.

As a coordinator of the parade and rally, I can tell you that we had 140 officially registered parade entries (up 14 from last year).

Michael Botkin reports that rally participants walked out "after I announced that the mayor was not coming." This is also totally inaccurate. At no time in the course of the rally did I ever announce that Acting Mayor Sawyer wasn't coming. In reality, we had no way of knowing when (or if) Sawyer was coming. There was no "walkout" of rally participants. In fact, rally participants remained at the site longer this year because of the popularity of a newly formed local rock band that played until the end of the rally.

I have sent in a separate manilla envelope post-parade news coverage in our gay publications as well as several of our major daily city newspapers. These news stories, in both the gay and non-gay papers, will verify my account of our celebration.

Thanks for the opportunity to set the record "straight!"

Sincerely,
Richard Pfeiffer
Coordinator
Chicago's Gay & Lesbian Pride Week Planning Committee
Chicago, Ill.

Support openly gay candidates

Dear GCN:

The same question arises year after year: should a gay and lesbian political group endorse a "powerful straight friend" over a homosexual candidate?

It seems obvious to me that we must support openly gay candidates. Otherwise, why should any capable lesbian or gay man take the financial and emotional risk of running for office if s/he can not count on support from the gay community against heterosexual privilege?

The Boston Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance's endorsement of Lopresti against Gerstell will discourage future gay candidates and is therefore a blow to gay empowerment everywhere.

Furthermore, how much of a friend to the gay community should we believe an influential senator to be who could not bring about passage of the gay and lesbian civil rights bill and who voted against gay foster parents?

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn R. Swift
Watertown, Mass.

One bad term deserves another?

Dear GCN:

I was pissed at some terminology in GCN (Vol. 16, No. 3) Speaking Outs.

INCEST: is sex between people closely related by blood (genetics, actually). There's nothing wrong with it per se, and I'm getting really disgusted with the insensitive way people are continuing to use this inherently abusive word.

DRUGS: Caffeine is a drug. Nicotine is a drug. Alohoh is a drug. If you are addicted to any

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Nobody can do it like the USA

By Rex Wockner

"I'm depressed," my other half said. "My elected representatives can't think for themselves, the public health department is out tracking sexual partners, Larry Kramer says the government has no interest in seeing the end of AIDS, *The Native* says HIV is a hoax, and a Catholic bishop is setting federal AIDS policy. I really don't think America is what I'd always hoped it was."

"I hate America," I assured my other half. "It's just that in all my travels I haven't found any place better...."

In fact, I remember a passionate conversation Jack and I had one night in Barcelona. I was telling our hostess, Maribel, that the magic of America is that if you are special, you can become anything you want. You aren't limited by class or your roots or even by being poor, *if you're just a little special*. (If you're a little bit non-special, of course, you can be sunk.)

My other half was skeptical, but I pushed onward to a Mirabel pumped full of media projections of the good life and the unlimited opportunities of America. With the media on my side, I prevailed in the discussion, despite (the conversation was in Spanish) modifying feminine nouns with masculine adjectives and not being able to translate "roots."

In retrospect, though, I've admitted that the other half deserved to have won. Sure, it's easier to own a car here than in Denmark. It's easier to buy a word processor than it is in Mexico. It's even easier to quit your job and backpack for a year than it is in Switzerland. There *is* an easiness about America. You can climb your way into social classes, professions, and universities, if only you're a *bit* extraordinary.

But there is another side to America, a side Maribel's TV hasn't shown her. I attempted to tell her about this side that night too, spurred on by Jack's irritation at my knee-jerk patriotism.

"People come home after work and microwave a TV dinner and watch sitcoms until bedtime," I told her. "Here, in Barcelona, your streets are alive at night, you walk, you eat for hours, you interact, you share your minds. Americans watch their 91 channels of superficial satellite sop. The whole country and everything you've ever believed about it really functions only on the surface. We are, in fact, programmed not to think. We are on auto-pilot. We are as closed minded and xenophobic as people get. In the last analysis, it's merely a big charade. We even have a B-movie actor as president!

"Do you realize," I asked her for shock value, "that the majority of Americans doesn't know which continent Barcelona is on, or even how many continents there are?"

Despite having trouble translating "sitcom," I was at least winning the other half back. Maybe I had even gone overboard as he suddenly offered that he could only have done what he's done (specialized academics) in the U.S.A. Mirabel, however, was crushed. Surely the average American didn't really make a lifestyle out of Pabst Blue Ribbon and *Magnum, P.I.*? I assured her this was the case and that she could check it out by asking her travelling friends if Americans aren't the most out-of-shape people on the planet. I thought for a moment she was going to cry. How could all those movies have lied to her? How could Frank Sinatra have lied to her? And wasn't Madonna still lying to her?

Yes, Maribel, lies, lies, lies. It can't be very hard to lie to Europeans with the media when we've perfected the art of lying to ourselves. Look at us; we're convinced that pin-striped suits, golf games and business degrees meet our human needs. It's the same old business of surface appearances. No wonder the government won't fund safer-sex programs. In surface America, it makes much more sense to slap a technical fix (mandatory testing) on the "problem" and then not think about it anymore. That way we'll identify the pervert "carriers," put them away somewhere and plop down back in front of the tube with our little minds untroubled. We particularly don't want trouble about sex, of course, which is naughty.

And, there, in front of the tube, we subliminally live our lives. Soon the next

Ollie North will flicker into our living rooms and jam more cock-sure patriotism down our frigid, titillated throats. Never mind that the Ollies fuck with everything the Constitution really stands for. They're cute and they're clean-cut and they *get things done*. That's what America is about: shining surfaces.

Nobody, after all, can do it like the U. S. of A. We invented the shiny cars, the larger-than-life movies and the computer that has let me rewrite this paragraph 47 times. The rest of the world looked on in awe as we became victims of our own ingenuity, as our collective sense of self became intertwined with our capacity to create and accomplish great things. The result: the America we project, to ourselves and the world, shines blindingly on the surface, just like Ollie. But do not look any deeper. Because then you'll see that the price we've paid is compulsory participation in our own B-movie extravaganza — with the finer points of existence (human evolution, personal growth, social welfare) permanently discarded on the editing room floor.

"Look at these fundamentalists," the other half added, "so desperate for answers, any answer, but so conditioned not to ask themselves any questions, that they'll follow Oral Roberts or Jerry Falwell. It's indisputable proof that something is wrong."

"We're bred not to think for ourselves," I assured him. "Of course we're prime targets for one-true-church religions."

I didn't feel the need to remind Jack that it gets worse than TV religion. I could have pointed out that when the TV ministers started letting us down, we responded only by becoming fixated on Tammy Faye's make-up and Jim and Jimmy's libidos. There's no question in my mind but that our fucked-upness was quintessentially expressed when we snatched up the news that Jim had never seen Tammy Faye without her eyelashes. Yes, on the surface, Tammy is lovable, but our examination of her stops cold right there. That is what's depressing.

I wandered into the other half's room and put the question to him: "Want to go live somewhere else?" I asked.

"Well," he said, "yes, but I don't know that in all my travels, I've actually found any place better. I've been places where the things they have wrong aren't the same things that are wrong here, but they have other things that are completely messed up."

"Listen," I said, "whadya say we go to the bedroom and make some puppies? What's one more defrocked myth anyway? We still have love."

The other half got up from his word processor and headed across the hall. As I reached for his shirt buttons, I noticed his eyes were focused on infinity. "And isn't love probably a myth also?" he asked. "Yes," I said, "but it's much older than America."

Rex Wockner is a gay activist and writer living in Chicago. He is a full-time reporter for Chicago Outlines.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Submissions must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND NO LONGER THAN FIVE PAGES. Send to: Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

of these, you are a drug addict.

Go ahead and knee-jerk if you can't control yourself any other way, but do not presume to knee-jerk at other people who are controlling themselves adequately.

The false dichotomy of drug/substance is a piece of bigotry that allows conformist drug users to feel superior to those who use less traditional but often more sensible drugs. Tobacco kills 350,000 per year in this country, while the only fatalities from heroin are due to overdose, impurities, or needle-sharing, all results of drug laws. The Surgeon General has just declared heroin and nicotine equally addictive.

Finally, "IVDU" [intravenous drug users] seems to include diabetics, who can get all the clean needles they need and so do not risk AIDS. Try "RIVDU," "R" for "Recreational."

Regards,
Peter Cann
Somerville, Mass.

Jewish feminism in the '80s

Dear GCN:

Perhaps due to a transcription error, I was quoted in an interview in the June 26-July 2 issue (Vol. 15, No. 48) as referring to "a wave of Jewish feminism *in the early 70's*." This should read "in the early *80's*." Although, during the early 70's, there were Jewish-feminist consciousness-raising groups, Jewish women's conferences, special Jewish women's issues of lesbian-feminist and Jewish periodicals, and the founding of the Jewish Feminist Organization, the wave Adrienne Rich and I discussed briefly in the interview is a more recent one. I just wanted to let GCN readers know which decade we were talking about.

With great appreciation for your ongoing work,
Elly Bulkin
Albany, N.Y.

Harassment in Bridgewater Titicut Follies: Part 2

Dear GCN:

I am writing to you about the outrageous prejudice this institution has been showing toward the gay and bisexual inmates that are housed here.

The harassment has been increasing to new highs. The more we try to keep to ourselves and do our own time peaceably, the more the administration has chosen to harass us with increasing shakedowns and all types of searches, during which we must also withstand a very heavy dose of verbal abuse and the threats of the officers regarding our lifestyles.

Today the administration has reached a new level in trying to break our spirit and break us apart. They took 5 of us, out of a group that basically kept to ourselves, and moved them to a different part of the system, where as the officer said while he made them pack to go, where they have serious enemies. Two of these 5 had just been moved out of that area because of life-threatening situations with other inmates.

The administration has rejected any appeals to stay here and offered them only isolation as an alternative. The officers said this was just the beginning and that more of us 'fags' will be getting moved, and they would not be happy until we were all out of here.

Surely this is not right. The administration is trying to break our spirit just because of who we are. I hope someone out there can take an interest, and write a letter to me or the administration asking what's going on, anyhow?

Thank you for your time,
Kevin Matteson
10 Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Disabled dyke writing 10 lesbians in prison

Dear GCN:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you people for the prisoner project's important work.

I was glad to see the many responses to the woman who wrote questioning the validity of the project. I am currently writing to 10 lesbians in jail (9 of them sisters who put ads in GCN) and I have never felt in the least ripped off. On the contrary, I enjoy my correspondence with these sisters very much. I am a disabled dyke who has limited access to the world, so a lot of my social life happens by phone or letter.

The hardest thing I've found about

writing to prisoners so far has been remembering which joint has which ridiculous rules about what you can or can't send a prisoner.

I've been given a bunch (about 100) of magazines from a lesbian who receives them as exchange copies as part of her work for a magazine. Any lesbian in prison who would be interested and able to receive magazines from me (personally) should write and I'll send her a list of what I have.

Also, I've put together a list of magazines which will send free subs to lesbians in prison. [SEE PENPAL SPACE]

One suggestion: I would like to see ads from gay men and lesbians incarcerated in psychiatric prisons (mental hospitals), nursing homes and other institutions who are looking for penpals run in GCN in addition to those from prisoners. [So would we!] Letters really help, regardless of where you're locked up.

I encourage other GCN readers to write prisoners. It's a good way to make friends.

For Freedom,
Barbara Ruth
3720 Suter St.
Oakland, CA 94619

Gay archives and university libraries

Dear GCN:

I share the concern expressed by Robert Halfhill (GCN, Vol. 15, No. 47) that any gay archives should be lost or in any way destroyed or vitiated. I strongly disagree, however, with his fears that university libraries are not a safe haven for gay archives. Long experience with university libraries convinced me that in the long run the research library of a great university would be the safest place for my own gay archival material. I therefore chose Cornell University's gay archives over independent gay archives. I believe that if Magnus Hirschfeld's collection had been (or, could have been) deposited in one of the great German universities it would not have been destroyed. If the far right should ever become powerful enough to get complete control of the country, the most vulnerable institutions would be independent gay institutions. Research libraries attached to great universities are considerably less vulnerable to the rabble.

Contrary to Mr. Halfhill's statement that "There would be no assurance that these straight institutions would keep the collection together, that they would preserve material that many heteros would consider 'pornographic,' or that the Archives would continue to be accessible to all members of our communities," the collection would be kept together, *all* materials would be preserved, and access would be universal *if those are the terms agreed to by the donor and the receiving library*. The deposit of a collection in a library is a legal act, and the terms of agreement must be as carefully drawn up as in any other contract. Once the terms of deposit have been agreed to and the contract signed by both parties, the library is bound by the agreement.

While I am on the subject, I want to urge GCN's readers to preserve correspondence, personal records of all sorts, business records, ephemeral leaflets and other publication by local gay organizations, clippings from local newspapers bearing on local gay affairs, etc., and deposit them in a gay archive someplace. Letters, diaries, memoirs, gay ephemera of all sorts will be of great interest and of great historical importance for future generations of gay people. No one is too insignificant to have her/his correspondence or records preserved, and now is the time to collect them and deposit them where one believes they will be most carefully preserved. I believe that place is a university research library, but a gay archive is better than discarding the material. I am a dedicated believer in the creation and maintenance of gay archives, the more the better.

En la lucha,
Glenn L. Sitzman
Mayaguez
Puerto Rico

Correction

The correct phone number for Ellen Bass, who leads workshops in various parts of the country for survivors of child sexual abuse, for partners of survivors and for professionals who work with survivors, is (408) 423-2609.

SPEAKING OUT

Defending the baths is defending our sexual freedom

By John O'Brien

How can we justify spending time protesting the closure of bath houses, given the crisis of AIDS? Should we not instead spend our time battling with the federal government for a safe cure and vaccine and obtain necessary services for those with the disease? Some in our community are crying out in fear and confusion "Close the bath houses. They spread AIDS!"

I want to address these concerns, since I believe that defending the bath houses is important to the struggle for Gay and Lesbian liberation. The essential ideological foundation of our Movement is based on sexual freedom. Our enemies' ideology is based on the premise that they must prevent sexual expression among same-sex individuals. Gayness directly threatens their own sexual insecurities. It also threatens conformity, which is so desired by supporters of a strong state that controls every move of its people.

Our enemy has spent centuries oppressing us physically and psychologically. They have forced us to grow up in straight environments that offer no alternatives. They have forced us to identify with their "values." This includes their views that sexual behavior is somehow "dirty" and that Gay sex is particularly disgusting.

They use these psychological weapons throughout our lives to reinforce their values. They use religion, the family and the state to "keep us in line," to keep as many as possible in the closet. They will use whatever it takes to subjugate us. This can be seen in their bloody record against our people throughout time and around the world.

Because of radicalization in the 1960s, millions of us have said, "No more — no more closets, no more repression, Gay is good!" Numerous attempts have been made to stop our progress toward freedom. Most of these have failed because significant numbers of our people have been clever enough to stick together and to battle our enemies' hate and deceit. Our willingness to stand together — even with major disagreements — has been the strength we've used to combat these enemies. Our parades each year and the enormously successful March on Washington are clear evidence of our determination not to go back into the closet, to stick together, and to encourage more of our people to stand up and come out.

In the front lines of this struggle for sexual freedom are the more visible elements of Gayness. To the repressive forces of our enemies these are the baths, the porno store arcades, the hustlers and the drag and leather bars. In the view of our enemies, all of these places promote Gayness and therefore must be closed.

Our enemies have long fought for closure of these places. Only in the last two decades were we generally successful in keeping our meeting places open. The closure of the baths will only encourage them to move on to closing all Gay and Lesbian centers, all Gay and Lesbian businesses, any place where our people visibly congregate and that in the slightest way promotes Gayness. This includes removing Gays and Lesbians from all governmental positions, including those who side with our enemies in debates on closing our gathering places. Our enemies wish to remove any visibility or trace of our existence. This is the purpose behind the attacks on the baths, bars and porno stores. The purpose is not concern for our health.

Anyone who believes that our enemies are concerned about our lives is sadly misinformed. Such people I call "straight identified." They are members of our community who hold up the "values" of our oppressor and they subordinate our own real needs and concerns.

Our enemies are using the fear of AIDS to whip up a campaign of hatred. They hope to catch us and our friends off guard, so that they can carry out their real objectives. They wrongfully use the ideological argument that Gay sex is responsible for AIDS. They want to close the baths, porno stores, bars, etc. and then reinstate anti-sodomy laws. This is not to protect our lives but to control them.

I believe that our enemies will be successful in reinstating the anti-sodomy laws in time, if we do not defend our front lines — the baths, bars, etc. The recent legislation passed in Britain by the House of Commons is an example. There our enemies have come out and said that they will discourage the promotion of homosexuality by the state. Members of the British Parliament openly cheered the recent arson attack on the Gay newspaper, *Capital Gay*. One of them openly said in referring to the attack, "[I]ntolerance of evil is a good thing." In other words: Smash the Gays. How long before we see a national anti-sodomy laws in this country? Are our enemies in this country any different in their thinking or are they even more extreme? To those Gays and Lesbians reading this I ask, "Can you expect to have any rights if you just keep staying on the sidelines and do not get involved in defending your rights?" History has shown that our enemies will not leave any of us alone, in the closet or not. We must all stand together or they will pick us off one by one.

Government officials have not closed down straight hotels, motels, drive-in movie theaters or what they refer to as "lovers' lanes." (Note: When we have sex in public places, it is called lewd contact. When they do it, it is called "lovers' lanes!") Unlike these other places, Gay bath houses provide educational literature. There are large numbers of heterosexual AIDS cases in the world and heterosexuals are the fastest growing group among IV drug users in this country. Yet who equates all straight sex with the spread of AIDS? Our enemies certainly do so for all Gay sex.

Our enemies do not care if Gays and Lesbians die. They do not care if we get proper medical treatment, services or educational materials needed to understand safe sexual practices. Look at the government's action (or lack of it) around the homeless, many of whom are Gay and Lesbian. The government hardly cares about spending money on saving lives. Let's face it: Gay and Lesbian lives rank pretty low as a priority for the government.

It should be obvious that we cannot trust this group of people who are intent upon denying our rights instead of saving the lives of so many threatened by AIDS. This same government has refused to help for years and has been part of the problem. Are we to believe that they are now suddenly concerned about our welfare?

Our enemies care little about our people's freedom and understand where closing the baths leads: to the reinstatement of anti-sodomy laws and to the discouraging of Gay/Lesbian sex (safe or unsafe). This is their real aim.

Unfortunately, some among us want to continue having our master's mentality. We need to expose such self-hatred in our community and not be silenced by it! Those among us who have an anti-sex line need to be educated. They clearly do not speak for all of us. There is a difference between people who personally do not want to have sex and those who publicly demand that no one should.

In sad typical fashion, we now see some of our people who never supported our struggle willing to give up our hard-fought-for rights. It has taken us years to have safe meeting places. These people, most of them recently involved, do not appreciate freedom and are not willing to defend it. Deep down, is it because they do not think we deserve it?

The real issue here is not that the baths spread AIDS, any more than bedrooms. The real issue is our right to control our own bodies and to have this society finally come to the realization that sexual freedom denied to Gays and Lesbians is freedom denied to us all!

John O'Brien was a participant in the Stonewall Rebellion. He is a long-time gay activist and civil rights supporter. He lives in West Hollywood, Calif.

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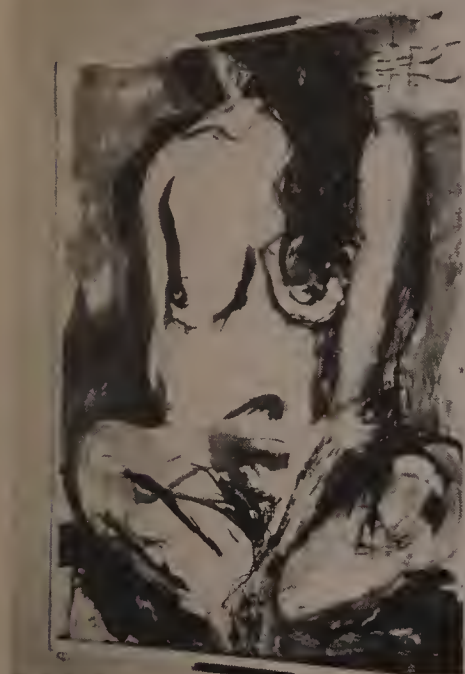
Voluptuous nudes and withered addicts

Michael McConnell on exhibit in Boston

Works in Mixed Media. By Michael McConnell. Club Cafe, Boston. Through August 28.

By Wickie Stamps

Through sleight of brush, flagrant disrespect for boundaries and, at times, goofy color combinations, gay



Moods

artist Michael McConnell repetitiously examines female sexuality. His portrayals run the gamut of voluptuous nudes perched in yoga positions to withered addicts drooped into chronic heroin nods.

Hair, in a kaleidoscope of colors, riots out from his subjects' heads or languishes in lotus blossomed crotches. Black-maned *Model #2* lays exposed and boneless — where she ends and her surroundings begin is unclear. *Pablo Ala* is a study in looney tune maroon; this full-headed beauty echoes with unruly rebellion. *Moods*, a disturbing piece, is pure pout lurking under matted locks.

McConnell leads us through shapes like Rorschach ink blots, at which we furtively grope for familiarity and then recoil once they crystallize. Breasts and cunts close enough to lick suddenly split forth from the quagmires and in *The Kiss*, two embroiled bodies suddenly birth nipples announcing the “love that dare not speak its name” — lesbianism.

Whether capturing societal tortures and despair or quiet lagoons of female nudity, McConnell's evocative work glares with realism. The tireless repetitions of ass and tits suggest he is struggling to get something right...he succeeds. □

Rudy Kikel

Mark Mosher DeWolfe, 35

“Know that the love which blooms inside you is stronger than fear, for people who love find strength they don't know they had. Know that the love inside you is stronger than illness for people who love hang in when physical health is gone. And know that love is indeed stronger than death, for people who love are like stones tossed into a pool. The circles of love radiate out and echo back long after the stone has come to rest at the bottom. So remember your love as a source of strength; remember who you are: lovers tossed by these difficult times.”

— Rev. Mark Mosher DeWolfe, from his address to the Toronto AIDS Awareness Week candlelight vigil, June, 1987.

By Jay Deacon

Rev. Mark Mosher DeWolfe, former GCN volunteer and minister since 1982 of the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel in Mississauga, a suburb of Toronto, died in his sleep Sat. July 16, at Toronto General Hospital of AIDS-related complications. He was 35.

DeWolfe was an active participant in Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, hosting the group's annual Convocation in Toronto in February 1987. To support the UDA policy of non-discrimination in the placement of ministers, he participated also in the UUA Department of

Ministry equal opportunity program, preaching and conducting workshops about homophobia and other forms of prejudice in congregations which are searching for a minister. Other involvements included the UUA Commission on General Resolutions and the denominational youth program. His article, “Love and Let Love,” published in the July 4 *Christianity and Crisis*, explored his experience as a minister with AIDS who had chosen to share his diagnosis and struggle with his congregation.

DeWolfe, born in Stoneham, Mass., graduated from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California in 1981. Earlier, he was an administrator of the theatre program at Tufts University, where he received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in drama. From 1977 to 1978 he was a member of the layout staff of *GCN*, as well as a writer. Prior to the South Peel congregation, he served as an intern minister at First Unitarian Church of San Francisco.

He is survived by his partner, Dr. James Moore of Toronto, and by his parents, Barbara and Rev. William DeWolfe of Springfield, Mass.

Memorial gifts may be made to the AIDS Committee of Toronto, Box 55, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L4, Canada; or to the Building Fund, Unitarian Congregation of South Peel, 84 S. Service Road, Mississauga, Ontario L5G 2R9, Canada. □

ACT UP

Continued from page 1

inside the company's headquarters to meet with James Parker, vice president of research and development. The company initially locked the door on the protesters, but agreed to the meeting when Boston's Channel Two News filmed Busby pounding on the door and shouting, “We didn't know a locked door is the way to stop AIDS.”

Emerging from the building 15 minutes later, Parker and Busby held an impromptu press conference. Parker announced that “Fisons' number one concern is patient care and making aerosolized pentamidine available.... But we much prefer cooperation to confrontation.” Busby countered by promising ACT UP would return shortly if Fisons refused to cooperate with its demands. “This is a life and death situation. We have no time to waste,” said Busby.

Parker added he would “investigate” ACT UP's demands. A meeting between Fisons and ACT UP is scheduled for Aug. 16 and will be moderated by Fenway Community Health Center (FCHC) board member Stewart Landers. According to Busby, Parker also agreed it would be in the

company's interest to provide information about clinical trials.

Due to strong and united efforts by PWAs, AP, previously ignored by the medical establishment, is increasingly available throughout the country. Pressure from ACT UP and other AIDS activists has forced Boston's hospitals and private physicians to take the drug more seriously.

Martha Moon, clinical director of FCHC, said it is “pretty clear that AP is effective. But the researcher in me tells me that we need more study.” She said clinical trials must continue to establish the efficacy of the drug and to determine how the drug is best administered, but the drug should also be widely available outside clinical trials for everyone with AIDS, ARC or HIV infection. She said FCHC's new HIV Treatment Center is set up to handle 200-300 PWAs per year. □



Whoopi Goldberg in *Jumpin' Jack Flash*

Good as Goldberg

Whoopi seizes the moment on her cable tv special and sticks it to the homophobes

Fontaine...why am I straight? starring Whoopi Goldberg. HBO Comedy Hour, August 6, Home Box Office. See cable listings for repeat broadcasts.

By Christopher Wittke

That Whoopi Goldberg, she sure is something. Actress, comedian, performance artist, political agent provocateur ... Whoopi is all of these things and more. She has been continually cast in films that barely scratch the surface of her talent while off-screen she was one of the first celebrities to advocate for the homeless. (She was instrumental in organizing the two mega-successful Comic Relief benefits.) Last October she turned up at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights pushing the wheelchair of a friend in the people with AIDS contingent and speaking to the queer multitudes at the post-March rally.

Her new Home Box Office special, *Fontaine... why am I straight?* is a success in part because it is a return to the style that serves Whoopi best. Before *The Color Purple* and *Jumpin' Jack Flash* it was her one-woman Broadway show, *Whoopi Goldberg*, that landed her squarely in the show biz limelight. Her collection of monologues by a handful of characters, among them the hilariously poignant surfer chick and the gender-non-specific drug user Fontaine, allowed the boundaries between performer and character, and audience and star to blur into what amounted to a laugh-a-minute consciousness raising session. At one point during the show's run, I remember reading about a free performance Goldberg gave at a New York men's prison. The writer mentioned Whoopi delivering a lengthy rap on AIDS which “sucked the air out of the room.” I remember thinking in those pre-Rock Hudson days of denial that here was one fearless performer.

But I was disappointed at the March on Washington to hear Goldberg deliver her “innocent-baby-victim” analysis of the AIDS epidemic, wherein she addressed the PWAs down front with “At least you guys have had 30 years or so...these babies [with AIDS] haven't had any time at all.” It occurred to me at the time that maybe the prison performance sucked the air out of the room by virtue of its wrong-headedness. And even though she came close to redeeming herself by leading the crowd in a “fuck you” chant aimed at the White House I was still left with an unpleasant aftertaste.

But as John Lennon would say, “Woah-oh I shoulda' known better with a girl like” Whoopi, because the live broadcast on Home Box Office showed a multi-faceted performer with her fingers planted firmly on the fucked-up political pulse of this country. And about 20 of the 50 minutes were devoted to a rap on AIDS that, you guessed it, sucked the air out of my living room. Maybe it was hot up on stage in D.C. or Whoopi lost her head in front of half a million people, or something, but Goldberg '88 is right on the money.

Whoopi's HBO special was telecast from Santa Monica and focused on Fontaine, that maven of drugular culture, at the end of a stay at the Betty (“Bettay”) Ford Clinic. Bettay's parting words of advice to the “straight for the first time since 1962” Fontaine are “When in doubt, all you have to do is sing the national anthem.”

Taking the stage in total darkness, the nervous Fontaine begins a profanity riddled version of the song (“Oh say can you motherfuckers see, By the dawn's early

motherfuckin' light...at the twilight's last goddamned gleaming”) that sets the stage for a rollercoaster of an evening. Fontaine/Whoopi explains that his/her first post-detox activity was watching Sunday morning television. Fontaine says “Maybe it's because I've been straight for about two minutes, but am I crazy? Jimmy Swaggart had no penis until seven months ago.” Fontaine regales us with lots of fallen preacher jokes but says “All religions have basically the same ten commandments, and that's cool. Like ‘Honor your father and your mother because you're gonna' need childcare.” A riff on Oral Roberts informs us that extorting eight million dollars with the threat of your own death “is the American way.”

But Fontaine's view of the U.S. citizenry is not a completely pessimistic one. “When they band behind a cause, it's Heaven here.” As a case in point Fontaine discusses the U.S. obsession with the Baby Jessica (she being that toddler who toddled into that well last fall) tragedy. There were celebrations when Jessica was freed. “People had Baby Jessica parties where they wrapped their heads in gauze and drew big, black circles around their eyes! America went cata-fucking-tonic because it coulda' been our child.” Fontaine recalls that upon arriving at the hospital Jessica received “Toyota trucks and toys and a telegram from the President of the United States that said ‘I'm very happy that Baby Jessica is safe.’”

But then Fontaine pulls the rug out. “On the other side of the coin are the Ray brothers. You remember them? The three kids with AIDS [sic — the Ray brothers tested HIV antibody positive] who got bombed out of their home. By people they knew. The president didn't send a telegram that said ‘This is unAmerican behavior and we don't have room for this shit.’”

At first I worried that this was going to be another innocent victim rap but the Whoop kept going. How about her suggestion that AIDS might've been an “experiment that got out of hand” in the same kind of lab that brought us Agent Orange and the neutron bomb? Or that the “tiny bit of funding for AIDS” may have come as a result of Ron and Nancy *both* fucking Rock Hudson? Or a long bit slamming homophobia with God inventing boy birds and girl birds and then they made more boy birds and girl birds, “And some girl birds got together and said ‘Not us-s-s-s.’ And some boy birds said ‘Get-it-girlfriend.’ ”

She trashed Jesse Helms for banning safe sex pamphlets for adolescents because “it'll make them homosexual. Which makes me ask ‘Jesse Helms — who are you fucking and what's his name 'cause I know you read the pamphlet?’ ” She bashed the Reagans and the administration's lack of concern about AIDS, and she bashed George Bush (“I feel sorry for him. I'd rather suck sweat off the ass of a cow than back up Reagan!”) and, praise Whoopi, Mike Dukakis: “Jesse [Jackson] makes Dukakis so nervous. Did you see when Jesse put that hat on him? He looked like Kukla from ‘Kukla, Fran and Ollie.’ To me he looks like Damian from *The Omen*.”

Goldberg left no target un-skewered. She did hilarious impersonations of Nancy Reagan, Lady Bird (“The Bird was very hip”) Johnson and a most side-splitting Ally Sheedy doing a public service announcement for condoms (“Hoi, I'm Alley Sheeday...”) There was a decidedly defeated air

Continued on page 12

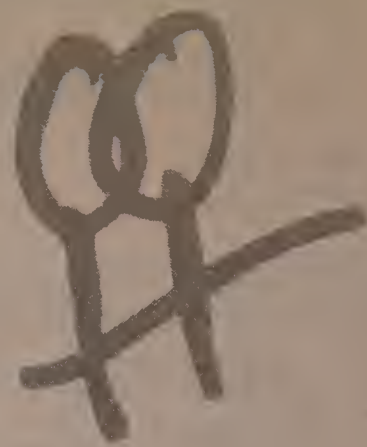


Keynote luncheon speaker Virginia Uribe

through the media, allows white people in power to gain by pitting people of color against one another. Chan carefully articulated the need for Asian lesbians and gay men to come out to their own communities as part of the process of self-definition.

In a workshop later in the day — "The Lesbian and Gay History Movement as an Educational Force" — she used a slide presentation to show that lesbianism is an integral part of Asian history and culture, not a contemporary Western pollution, as is charged by the heterosexual Asian community.

Renee McCoy, a minister and the executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, insisted that "unless we are willing to bring about financial empowerment of educational programs, it is senseless to speak of these efforts [for change]." She called for programs to create and distribute educational materials that realistically depict Black lesbian and gay



Opening panel: Barbara Smith, Renee McCoy, A. Chan

'We educate because we people can change'

By Michael Rogan, with Hugh Wilburn

"Come Out! Come Out!" urged plenary speakers and workshop leaders at the first National Lesbian/Gay Education Conference, held Sunday, July 24, 1988, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. From Chilean lesbian activist Mariana Romo Carmona to June Chan of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast, the call to name ourselves in our communities, on our jobs and in our political circles resounded. Sponsored by The Fund for Human Dignity, the other key theme of this highly diverse and ambitious forum was that of honoring our differences.

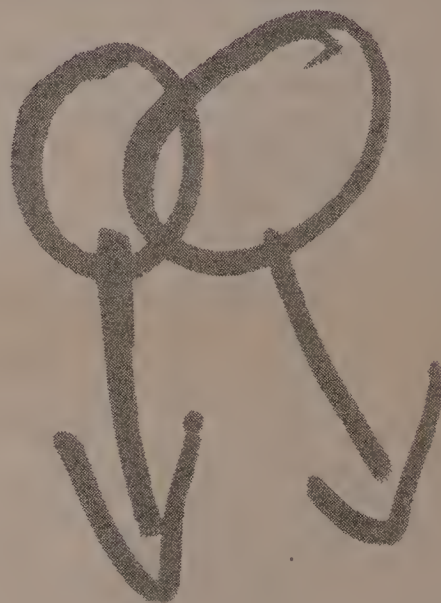
Event organizers hoped to bring together grassroots lesbian and gay activists with professionals in education, media, health care, the arts and religion, in order to share innovative gay/lesbian educational projects, create a network of educators working to combat anti-gay bigotry, and develop a national lesbian and gay education agenda. Panels and the over 30 workshops (divided among only three time slots, which frustrated many) focused on six primary areas: educating (1) the media; (2) educators and our youth; (3) non gay/lesbian communities; (4) legislators; (5) the lesbian and gay community on issues of race, class, gender, sexuality and internalized homophobia; and (6) education through the creative arts. With so much on the agenda and too much from which to choose, the Conference could have easily exhausted its participants, undermining its goals; some of the 130 registered attendees suggested that a two-day conference be considered in the future.

The welcoming remarks, presented by Sherrie Cohen, executive director of The Fund For Human Dignity, stressed the need for concerted efforts against the promotion of homophobia, which is destroying lives, families and communities. She noted that while the age of AIDS is an age of escalating homophobia, the mandate of AIDS education being demanded around the country provides an opportunity to present positive images of gay men and lesbians. Cohen added, "We educate because we believe people can change." To be most effective, we need a national strategy for education throughout society, including the gay community, for we have internalized the general homophobia, sexism and racism of society.

In her closing comments Cohen emphasized that "The success of our movement will depend upon our own tolerance created out of our own diversity. We need to open our hearts and minds to one another."

In her address at the morning plenary which followed, Chan identified four planks for an educational agenda incorporating people of color: (1) self-definition: "It is our responsibility to define ourselves — nobody else's"; (2) the fight against confining stereotypes; (3) the fight against racism; (4) for Asians, it is essential to expose the "model minority" myth. Such a generalization for an entire race, where the circumstances of a few are exaggerated

lifestyles. The East/West coast activism and "Gay Community" is not universal; we need to present our images to lesbians and gay men outside this "community" as much as we do to straight society — and more often than just in the month of June! But this must not be tokenism by whites; Black people must choose the images to reflect the truth of their own community. McCoy added that racism can not be separated from homophobia by lesbian and gay people of color, but that it is time to shift the responsibility of addressing racism to the white lesbian and gay community. "The whites must commit sufficient resources to address the issue of their own racism." A. Damien Martin, co-founder and executive director of the Hetrick-Martin Institute (formerly the Institute for the Protection of Gay Youth) followed, identifying four target groups to which we should address our educational efforts: (1) lesbian and gay youth: they come from all racial backgrounds, economic classes, and religious groups, yet none of them have access to accurate information



Opening panelists Dennis Medina and June Chan

that is not filtered or biased by adults; (2) youth-serving professionals: homosexuality must become a viable topic of discussion without fear of repercussion; (3) straight youth, also victims of homophobia, need positive lesbian and gay role models. They are being taught that violence and hate is acceptable; (4) adults, who must be made aware that lesbian and gay youth exist, and that lesbian/gay youth have special problems and need special attention.

Dennis Medina, a board member of Organizacion Latina Lesbiana y Gay, said that the diversity of Latino communities in the U.S. makes addressing Latino community issues extremely difficult. Latinos in

this country are Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Caribbean, South and Central American, with roughly 60 percent indigenous to the U.S. According to Medina, all are in varying degrees of assimilation, and have varying racial backgrounds, dialects and bilingual abilities. The development of educational materials is therefore complicated. One of the goals of the Organizacion is to collect materials that evidence this diversity and may suggest ways of being adapted for other local Latino communities. In subsequent workshops, Medina stressed the importance of education by and for lesbian and gay Latinas/os who often "carry information across borders" (economic, social, psychological, cultural, as well as national borders).

Barbara Smith, of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, noted that the education of straights is and will be a lengthy process. Teaching the experience of lesbians and gay men on the primary and secondary levels would create a context for tolerance of lesbian and gay youth (a difficult task, Smith admitted, in the face of school boards that are the pawns of the religious right). She noted, however, that positive images of lesbian and gay people of color are meeting resistance even on the college level, in Afro-American Studies departments, where the story of Black history and culture in this country cannot truthfully be told without Black lesbian and gay input. "We must change how we think about and write about [Black] history and culture," Smith said part of the problem is a lack of competent personnel to do the kind of teaching necessary. "Good politics does not equal good academic credentials!" She added that the closeting of academic Black lesbians and gay men must be overcome.

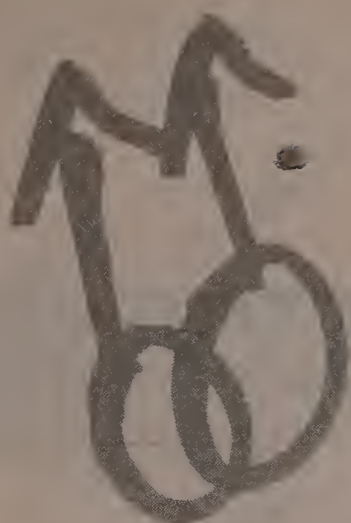
The call for personal responsibility sounded by these panelists, and the implication that personal responsibility can lead to collective activism, was directly addressed by the luncheon's keynote speakers.

Dr. Virginia Uribe, founder of California's Project 10, the only mainstream counseling program for lesbian and gay high school youth in the U.S., detailed how she developed and has maintained this successful program in the face of aggressive attacks from conservative politicians and the religious right. To have a successful program, she advised, it must have support from the majority of the Board of Education as well as a "Parents and Friends" group comprised of parents, gay and non-gay professionals, social service organizations — and all with minority representation. If the program is subjected to public hearings, program directors must turn out the support group to "stack the meeting." It is essential to carefully prepare the staff of the project to sensitize the school community in a gradual way; springing issues or demands on them risks a knee-jerk reaction. Incorporate sexual orientation into other existing programs, such as suicide prevention, drug or drop-out programs. Appeal to the community's desire to help these kids deal with their own problems. Insist on school safety; often lesbian and gay youth are left defenseless without family support. Physical harassment and verbal abuse must



Damien Martin, Sherrie Cohen, Dennis Medina and June

believe



A. Damien Martin and Sherrie Cohen

The first National Lesbian and Gay Education Conference focuses on coming out and embracing difference

their work. The two themes of the Conference, embracing our own diversity, and developing personal responsibility into collective activism, resounded clearly in the panelists' concluding comments.

James Credle, Dean for Minority Student Affairs at Rutgers University, Newark campus, and co-chair of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, reiterated that the issues of racism, sexism and homophobia are ingrained in our society and in ourselves, encouraging us to focus our energies on these "collected -isms" and embrace our diversity. Felice Yeskel, Director of the Program for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, insisted that we recognize our sexual diversity, and our relationship to other oppressed groups. We must form this alliance with our hearts and souls, not just our heads. As she stressed in her workshop, "Responding to Homophobia on Campus," together we can challenge "those institutions that provide our services and reflect what we are," in order to "create services that will reflect what we will become."

Mariana Romo-Carmona, a founding member of The Latina Lesbian History Project, echoed the words of June Chan when she called for Latina lesbians to come out in Latino communities. She said Latina lesbians can then work with Latino gay men on becoming a more realistic part of the larger lesbian and gay community. Romo-Carmona insisted "we do not want white community outreach." Don Kao, director and case worker at Project Reach, emphasized the need for all lesbian and gay people of color to encourage other queer people of color to come into the movement. Project Reach, through peer advocacy, provides a place where young people can begin to take control of their own lives. In the same way lesbian and gay people of color can influence the direction of their own lives.

Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, agreed with commentary presented in a previous workshop on "Educating Legislators," that public officials must be made aware that they have lesbian and gay constituents, and that we seek policy results on issues that effect our lives. We must come out; the best way to impress our needs on legislators is to have them meet "real lesbian and gay people," not just the "professional queers." In the workshop on "Educating Legislators," gay Boston City Councillor David Scondras had urged everyone to tap their political power. Scondras noted that "it is virtually impossible for most people to realize the power they have." Scondras stated that it was at the local level that political activism



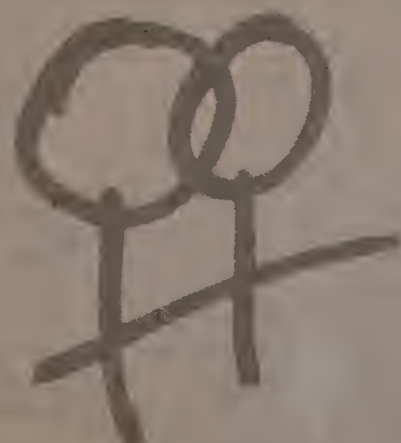
Keynote luncheon speaker Simon Watney

was lacking, and that much more than high level leaders, what we need are precinct captains. Levi emphasized the greater accessibility to local politicians and encouraged activists' early involvement in politician's careers. He cautioned everyone to be willing to compromise — "get them used to working with us. The process is cyclical and developmental: this is a marathon race."

Darrell Yates-Rist, the author of *Heartlands: A Gay Man's Odyssey Across America*, issued a warning against overburdening the creative arts with a "lesson plan" educational agenda to teach "them" about "us." He added that at this point, only a particular genre of artistic work is being supported, thereby narrowing the definition of "us." But, "The masculine white whitewash of the current novelists' urban chic cannot cover-up the diversity of our real community." Yates-Rist also said that in the age of AIDS we are in danger of suffocating the imagination through our fear of losing cohesion within the community and our support from without. In freeing the imagination to "disturb our vision of ourselves," we may not be changing minds by reason (a process he said is best left to academics), but we will change the heart by touching the soul. Attendance at the conference was boosted by registrants of the

concurrently running Tenth National and Second International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum. It was suggested during the closing panel that a second Education Conference might be more effective if it coincided with a group more racially diverse and more actively involved in coalition politics than the Health Conference. A call was also sounded for each community to turn out a greater number of people of color; The Fund for Human Dignity was congratulated for the diversity represented by the speakers at the Conference.

This first Education Conference was an important continuation of the national grassroots activism brought together at the National March on Washington. The Fund for Human Dignity, through its National Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, expressed its intention during the workshop "Roundtable on Educational Resources" to expand its role as an information clearinghouse, hopefully assisting grassroots education across the country. Publishing proceedings of the Conference would be an admirable step in this direction. □



not be tolerated and can be significantly affected by school policy.

As a caution, Uribe advised carefully reviewing all material to be used in the program. Material taken out of context and labeled by opponents with buzzwords such as "pornographic" or "homosexual recruitment" or "promoting AIDS" can and will be used to whip up sentiment against any educational efforts. She stressed the need to stand firm in the face of intimidation, noting that the opponents do not expect us to fight back. Stay calm and hit them with logic and statistics over and over again. "Fighting back with information brings success. Success breeds support." As a final recommendation, Uribe asked everyone to come out on some level to influence the course of events. "We have to try," she implored, on an individual level to influence the circle around each one of us. "There is something everyone can do. Coming out is just absolutely essential to our survival."

Simon Watney, British activist and author of *Policing Desire: Pornography, AIDS and the Media*, suggested we think of all the issues being discussed at this Conference in the context of a society which still overwhelmingly disapproves of lesbians and gay men. In addition to the increase in homophobia fed by fear of AIDS, we live in a society engaged in a long-term systematic denial of the diversity of human sexuality. The problem in education about homophobia centers on the "international fantasy" of child molestation by gay men, which suggests to Watney the displacement and projection of adults more than the experience of youth.

Watney demanded that the politics of Gay Liberation must not die as an international movement and community. Alarmed, he noted that we are witnessing today a widespread retreat into highly individualized definitions of power. Personal therapy can not change the world, he scoffed. Our "need to analyze where our troubles come from" should instead focus on developing "our awareness as to how we are engaged by them." We need to think critically, and reject that which we know not to be true, especially misinformation in the media, he added, and "We need, deserve, and must demand a better lesbian and gay press than this country currently provides." In discussing AIDS, he insisted that "the attempt to separate it from a homosexual agenda is pernicious nonsense."

Watney dismissed as wishful thinking the desire of U.S. college students to be openly gay "upright citizens," and the presentation of "positive images" to the heterosexual community. The fact is that we are not all the same, and that no image is transparent — providing the same meaning to all. We must register the complexity of our lives, all our lives, and not expect "positive images" to produce a simple cardboard cutout reversal of the negative images we are given today. (Watney's views run counter to the presentations in the workshop on "Educating Through the Media," where positive image campaigns in preparation in Ohio and by New York's Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and The Fund for Human Dignity were discussed.) We are suffering from the delusion that there can be equality in difference, Watney contends. He warns that we are in radical conflict with the established institutions of racism and heterosexuality; our revolution is far from evident in a culture where its acceptance will overturn the dominant social patterns.

The closing panel was designed to encourage lesbian and gay educators and activists to consider what will help them in

U.S. Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases as of August 1, 1988

Transmission Categories	White	Black	Hispanic	Other/ Unknown	Male	Female	Total
	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)
Homosexual/ Bisexual Male	31,438 (78)	6,638 (38)	4,323 (44)	432 (68)	42,831 (68)		42,831 (63)
Intravenous (IV) Drug Abuser	2,548 (6)	6,603 (38)	3,795 (38)	62 (10)	10,112 (16)	2,896 (52)	13,008 (19)
Homosexual Male and IV Drug Abuser	3,049 (8)	1,243 (7)	703 (7)	25 (4)	5,020 (8)		5,020 (7)
Hemophilia/ Coagulation Disorder	557 (1)	41 (0)	47 (0)	13 (2)	637 (1)	21 (0)	658 (1)
Heterosexual cases	533 (1)	1,915 (11)	402 (4)	19 (3)	1,238 (2)	1,631 (29)	2,869 (4)
Transfusion, Blood/Components	1,275 (3)	261 (1)	143 (1)	42 (7)	1,113 (2)	608 (11)	1,721 (3)
Undetermined	824 (2)	830 (5)	456 (5)	41 (6)	1,715 (3)	436 (8)	2,151 (3)
Subtotal [% of all cases]	40,224 [59]	17,531 [26]	9,869 [14]	634 [1]	62,666 [92]	5,592 [8]	68,258 [100]
Total number of AIDS-related deaths: 39,060							

The most timely and comprehensive statistical data about AIDS come from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which issue weekly reports. But this information, though seemingly “objective” numerical data, is both limited and biased.

The CDC, based in Atlanta, compile national statistics on AIDS (comparable data is not published for AIDS Related Complex — ARC) based on reports from state health departments and physicians. Standard diagnostic forms are completed by physicians when they diagnose a case and these are sent to state departments of health or the CDC.

The CDC numbers do not account for all people who have AIDS in the U.S. Not all physicians are adequately trained to make an AIDS diagnosis, so many people who have AIDS continue to be misdiagnosed. In addition, some doctors who are motivated to protect their patients from the stigma attached to AIDS (sometimes by patients themselves, or their families) may be reluctant to report an AIDS diagnosis. In addition, many people who lack access to adequate medical care — poor people, people of color, IV drug users, prisoners, teenagers and women — will not come in contact with the people who do the reporting and will be misrepresented in the statistics. Prisons, for example, are notorious for their failure to recognize and report cases of AIDS.

It is also important to examine how the presentation of the CDC numbers is distorted. The categories listed in the CDC tabel inaccurately represent data about transmission. By presenting risk groups (primarily gay/bisexual men and IV drug users) under “transmission categories,” the data tells us little about which high-risk activities are associated with the spread of AIDS and perpetuates the myth that certain kinds of people are inherently carriers of the disease.

For a more detailed analysis of the CDC’s statistics, see the centerspread in **GCN**, Vol. 15, No. 40. We welcome your input about the CDC numbers we print and suggestions about statistical information you would like to see. □

Kowalski

Continued from page 1

support Kowalski and Thompson have been the result of coalition efforts between lesbian/gay activists and disabled rights activists, who have stressed that the difficulties facing Kowalski could face anyone. Foty, in her address to the 250 supporters who rallied in Washington, D.C., said, “The scope of this struggle has widened because it is becoming more and more clear that this fight is for all of us who do not meet society’s expectations. Anyone who chooses to love without finding themselves under the law, anyone who chooses a partner of the same sex, anyone who is physically challenged yet claims the right to name the terms of their life, anyone elderly and demands an independent life — all of us have a stake in Sharon’s freedom.... Until [she] is free, no one of us is out of danger.”

Disability rights activist Michael Frisenger of the “Independence Center” in Northern Virginia told the D.C. crowd that gay men, lesbians, and people with disabilities “daily confront...discrimination because we are being ourselves.” Frisenger said “Sharon’s story offers insight into the treatment of people with disabilities. Decisions that should be made by us are made for [us].... Sharon is but one of many who...struggle every day with feelings of paternalism and outright discrimination. It also reveals a thought held by many that persons with disabilities are asexual beings, without feelings. But those feelings do not disappear, do not die. What is taken away is a freedom to express those feelings.”

AIDS activist and attorney Mauro Montoya urged rally participants to sign a durable power of attorney allowing a lover to act in their behalf upon incapacitation. “Don’t wait until you’re sick or something happens,” he said. Montoya, now legal director for Impact, an AIDS service group for people of color, is working to have the District of Columbia include domestic partners in the group of those legally allowed to act in the absence of written authorization.

Foty told *GCN* that one of the reasons the D.C. rally garnered so much media attention was the endorsement by National Organization for Women (NOW), whose president, Molly Yard, spoke at the rally. Yard said NOW “will be at the side of every woman discriminated against or held in bon-

dage as is Sharon Kowalski.”

New legal developments

As plans for National Free Sharon Kowalski day were being finalized, the legal efforts to free her seemed to move forward. Judge Robert Campbell, who ruled in February that Donald Kowalski must comply with court ordered competency testing for Kowalski, finally issued a written order of his ruling on July 6. Campbell set July 31 as the date by which Kowalski must be tested, and set forth guidelines for her evaluation. (When Donald Kowalski was awarded guardianship in 1985 he was ordered to have Kowalski tested for competency at least annually, which he has refused to do.)

Just before the deadline Donald Kowalski’s attorney, Jack Fena, was able to obtain a stay in order to give him time to file a motion to overturn the testing order. According to Dejanikus, the motion also argued that Thompson should pay for the testing.

But on Aug. 4, according to Dejanikus, Fena agreed to withdraw the motion after consultation with Campbell and Thompson’s attorney and Kowalski’s court-appointed attorney. Dejanikus said Campbell is in the process of scheduling the evaluation with the three doctors he appointed and that the testing should happen sometime in August. The results of the evaluation are expected sometime in September.

Campbell’s order asked the doctors examining Kowalski to evaluate: her present level of physical and mental functioning, her social and psychological well-being, whether she should receive further evaluation, the potential she is capable of reaching, further rehabilitation she should receive, and her ability to reliably express her wishes regarding visitation. Campbell said Thompson could be present at Kowalski’s evaluation only if the doctors deem it important, according to Dejanikus. □ filed from Boston

GCN reporter John Zeh contributed to this story from Washington

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Strip-tique

Continued from back page

get to the front rows. I imagine the women-loving-women and the straight men retired to the bar to amuse themselves some other way for the 45 minutes of the competition, though I admit to being too preoccupied to notice. Certainly they were all back on the dance floor later.

So there I was, in the front row of course (it was my reportorial duty), with a bunch of gay men and straight women. And we're all involved in a lowdown and dirty — but nevertheless eminently "Safe" — celebration of the erotic possibilities of the male body. Together. I have been in places where I felt many straights were willing to accept my sexuality as long as it remained conceptual and theoretical, unimplemented and unseen. But I have never seen a mixed environment where gay male eroticism and straight female eroticism could be enacted simultaneously, and as the same thing. As an instance of imagining the erotic without the concepts of abnormality or deviance, it felt pretty radical to me.

And what of the sordid economics of voyeurism and sex for cash? Well, remember, these were *amateur* male strippers. Like the Olympics — should I say, the Straight Games? — professional experience disqualified contenders. Only the winner and the runner up walked away from the evening any richer at all, and the top cash prize would pay the rent on my apartment for about a week. So from a purely financial standpoint, we're definitely talking hobby, not career. But what really eliminated the stench of the possibly-pornographic was the complete absence of the anonymity associated with pornography. The individual competitors were cheered on by regulars of the pubs they represented. They were known by name. They had brought their friends. One favorite barmaid mounted a stereo speaker to cheer that pub's particular representative — and cheerfully boo the rest. A cute little man with a Dick van Dyke Cockney accent informed me in sorrowful tones that the winning stripper, whom he knew, was happily married with children.

So, having come to be titillated (a goal successfully accomplished) I went away profoundly moved. Terms that have been constructed as mutually exclusive — gay and straight, male and female, voyeurism and friendship, community and erotic display, here were all combined in an atmosphere of unselfconscious fun. Without high seriousness or portentous theory, here was an event that seemed to leave hope for the integration of gay sexuality into broader cultural affirmations of both community and erotic pleasure. Kids, I have seen the future, and it is standing around a suburban pub watching some guy take his clothes off.

Now for the bad news: the subversive possibilities of striptease are not lost on the powers that be, and already two of the central London boroughs are moving to ban strippers in clubs not licensed for full-time sexual entertainment (all such full-time porn palaces are straight). Keep those mutually exclusive categories mutually exclusive at any cost! So unless the suburbs can hold out, the striptique is a pleasure that will have to be quickly exploited. □

Matlovich

Continued from page 3

When his picture appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine, Leonard Matlovich was promoted by the mainstream straight and gay media as the perfect American gay hero — a righteous rebel, the iconoclast with "all American" values who stood up against the bad guy of organized government for personal and political reasons. This was a 1970s twist on the classic Frank Capra movies, only now it was not *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* or *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* but *Mr. Matlovich Comes Out*. For those who wanted to prove that gay people were not "security risks" — as the military establishment claimed — Matlovich was a perfect example: an impeccably loyal American who fought and killed for his country and who had a totally unblemished military record. They argued Matlovich was "just like everyone else" except, of course, that he liked to sleep with men.

And in true American fashion, Matlovich fit easily into the Andy Warhol formula of 15 minute fame. From the cover of *Time* his story became a TV movie (which never made it to prime time because of its subject matter) and then fell into obscurity. He would surface occasionally in the gay press: when

he ran as a Republican for San Francisco City Supervisor in 1979; when he closed his pizza restaurant in Guerneville, California, because of public hysteria over AIDS. There was even less note taken when he joined the campaign to close the San Francisco bathhouses or was instrumental in forming a gay conservative lobbying group called Concerned Americans for Individual Rights. (Matlovich's political stance resembled that of the homophile movement of the 1950's, particularly the later Mattachine Society and the Society for Individual Rights.) It wasn't until he was diagnosed with AIDS in late 1986 that Matlovich made the national mainstream press again.

Matlovich's case was one place where gay activists from disparate political philosophies argued about the gay political agenda. Matlovich, a conservative who fought to be accepted — by the federal government, the military and the public — epitomized the assimilationist segment of gay rights activism. He insisted that the respect due him for his patriotism should extend to his personal choices as well, exemplified by his statement: "When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one."

But Matlovich's criticism of the government merely for its hypocrisy was troublesome, to say the least, to those who identified themselves as gay liberationists. Viewing gay oppression as connected to a whole range of other social evils — sexism, racism, economic inequity, imperialism — they saw Matlovich's demands to be accepted by the military as, at best, band-aid surgery. Some may have admitted that the military should not have discriminated against Matlovich, but they placed his case on the low end of a long list of priorities.

Matlovich became an icon for many in the gay movement; lionized by those who embraced his case and dismissed or vilified by those who disagreed with what they viewed as his political conservatism. But looking back on all of the newspaper clippings, thinking of the heated arguments — now dimmed by the passage of almost 15 years — it seems to me that what was missing was any real discussion of Leonard Matlovich's life, what went on behind the face on the *Time* Magazine cover. No one ever asked him what it was like to be a Viet Nam vet, and to have killed two men. We never learned how the painful memories of combat affected him back in this country, how fighting in a war against an Asian "enemy" affected his teaching race relations for the armed services, or how being trained to kill may have affected his ability to love men.

As someone who spent years protesting the U.S. war against Viet Nam, and who has honed a fine rage against militarism and our country's appalling foreign policies, I have found it necessary, in recent years, to make a separate peace with my feelings about Viet Nam veterans. My rage at the war many times carried over to the men who fought there. I was lucky to have escaped the draft, but many, including members of my own family, were inducted and had to fight. But during the last few years I have met and socialized with, tricked with, and been lovers with men who fought in Viet Nam. As I have spoken to them, made love with them, or fucked with them I have had to admit to myself that my anger against veterans — as a group — was misplaced, non-productive. And during this time my feelings about Leonard Matlovich — and the political discussions about his case — have also changed.

The dichotomy between the gay rights advocates and the gay liberationists is still with us, and I still identify with the latter rather than the former, but looking at Matlovich's life now I feel my need is to know what he was and what he felt, as a gay man, rather than argue abstract political agenda.

In this age of AIDS Leonard Matlovich's case seems small and unimportant. Gay life in the twenty years since Stonewall has grown more complex, the problems facing it more serious. And in those twenty years many people involved with these struggles — myself included — have also changed. I worry more now about the lives of the people involved in political issues, as well as the issues themselves. I have come to expect both too much and too little of the gay movement in the 19 years that I have been involved with it. Like a lover whose passion seems boundless it excites and disappoints at the same time. I am glad that the gay movement gave Matlovich the courage and pride to come out and take the risks he did. But it saddens me that along with giving context and political backing to the act of bravery it

Continued on page 12

Lessers

Continued from page 3

to shape the language and vision of debate on numerous issues, including AIDS. She urged us to reclaim the definition of issues of importance to our community. Cerullo also raised the issue of holding our leadership accountable, reminding us that Frank has repeatedly criticized lesbians and gay men for “self-indulgent” demonstrations, and for failing to be pragmatic.

Accountability was an issue raised several times during the question and answer period that followed, as people discussed the method by which our leaders are chosen, and how they answer to the community they serve. Frank, it was suggested, is primarily responsible to his constituency in the 4th Congressional District, and not to lesbians and gay men. He has been appointed as a spokesperson for our community by the news media, because of his prominence. Cerullo pointed out that the lesbian and gay delegation to the Democratic Convention (some 80 strong, evenly divided between allegiance to Jesse Jackson and Dukakis) was unable to get Dukakis to commit to an executive order banning lesbian and gay discrimination in the federal government, or to have him mention lesbian and gay rights in his acceptance speech. Frank was chastised for his criticism of other community leaders for requesting these signs of support from Dukakis, claiming they were divisive, and that words were not important.

Also present at the meeting were three people representing the National Alliance Party candidate Lenora Fulani. They described Fulani’s pro-gay/lesbian platform, and explained that she is the first Black woman candidate ever to qualify for Federal Election Commission matching funds. Fulani is on the ballot in all 50 states. Important questions were raised in material handed out at the forum about the ties of the Fulani campaign and its umbrella organization, the New Alliance Party (NAP), to Lyndon LaRouche in the early 1970s, the depth of real Black leadership in this “Black-led, woman-led” party, the misuse of the relationship between clients and therapists in NAP-affiliated mental health centers and allegations that NAP is a “cult” ultimately controlled by founder and guru Fred Newman, who is white.

Several audience members, including Tom Reeves, who chaired the Boston-Boise Committee fighting police harassment of gay men in 1978, stressed that lesbians and gay men should not be lulled into believing that electoral politics is an answer for our movement. Reeves said that we must recapture the early 1970s model of gay liberation, and not be co-opted into electoral politics, which has consistently betrayed us and failed to meet our needs.

GLDC and MASS ACT OUT are planning a series of forums on various other topics of interest to the lesbian/gay community. Watch for details in upcoming issues of GCN. □

Whoopi

Continued from page 7

about her when Fontaine discussed the upcoming election. “What’re you gonna do for another eight years? I don’t know what to tell ya. But it’s in your hands to ask for more.”

Whoopi Goldberg may very well be the most important mainstream entertainer/ally the lesbian/gay community has right now, if in fact a Black woman with dreadlocks and a very progressive politic can be considered mainstream. No matter what incarnation she uses to express her views, Fontaine or whomever, yes, I want more. As Lennon would say, “Gimme more, hey hey hey, gimme more,” more Whoopi Goldberg! □

Matlovich

Continued from page 11

did not excite or provoke him to grow more quickly, to see that his case against the armed forces was only one small cog in the machinery of change. I don’t wish to excuse or patronize Leonard Matlovich — he made his political and personal choices with a clear mind and, for him, sound reasons. But on some deep level I wish the gay movement — in all of its varied manifestations — had helped him see what others have envisioned: not only the possibility of profound and lasting social change, but the inclination and fortitude to act on it. □

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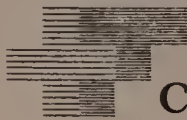
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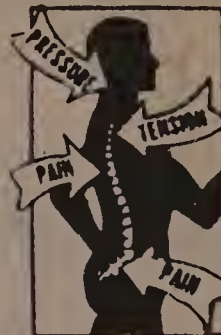
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UNTIL YOU FIND A
ROOMMATE**



Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays until noon. 426-4469.

SOMERVILLE NEAR UNION SQUARE

GM, 36, piano, goldfish, seek two responsible non-smokers for large 3BR duplex. Very close to T, shopping. Avail 9/1 \$230-plus util and sec. Heat included. Charlie 666-4283. (7)

BETWEEN BU & BC

Male, 26, seeks roommate to share 2BR near Washington & Commonwealth, 4 min to T, 12 min to YMCA. No tobacco. \$400, available 8/1. Call Robert at 787-9199. (6)

HOUSEMATES — MANCHESTER NH

Divorced GM seeks 2GWM 7 room ranch near Saint Anselm College. \$55 a week, many extras, call (603) 624-8955. (6)

3 LF's seek another for sunny spacious semi-coop home near Porter Square, Cambridge. We have 2 cats, no more pets, min. drugs or alcohol. Avail. Sept. 1, 250 plus call 491-4005. (6)

GREAT SOMERVILLE APT

2 LF's seek same to share 3 bedrm apt. Non-smok, quiet, semi-coop, share veggie foods. Have yard, sm. dog, no cats. Near Davis Sq. T. 300-plus, Sept. 1. 776-6612. (6)

YOUR NEW HOME

Could be in a sunny Victorian House on Jones Hill. Porches, den, piano, parking, near T, stores. Friendly, eclectic professional LF 31 seeks LF/GM ASAP 282-2962. (6)

SHARE SOMERVILLE HOUSE

LF 33 seeks LF30plus to share Teele Sq. House. Quiet, responsible non-smoker, no pets, you'll have 3 rooms and share liv, din, kit, bath. \$500 plus. Avail immediately. Call before 9pm 628-7487. (6)

HOUSING WANTED

OH GIVE ME A HOME...

LF 30 seeks 1 bedroom apartment with basement or garage \$400 plus, need 9/1 possible work exchange, 1 restore houses, carpentry, painting. Call Terri 666-8842. (7)

Two responsible, wonderful women seeking sunny, beautiful 5-6 room apartment in Jamaica Plain, Sept. 1. Non-smokers, non-drinkers. Call Lisa or Story, (617) 522-4720, (617) 522-5381. (8)

APARTMENT WANTED

Gay professional couple seeks quiet top-floor apartment in or around Boston. \$600-700/mo. for 9/1. Call 628-0372. (6)

I STILL NEED A HOME!

Gay man (26) seeking home by Sept. 1 in Boston/Cambridge area. I school and work in Cambridge and would like to move in with others committed to mostly independent, friendly, cohabitation. 300 including, tops. Kenji, 262-7320. (8)

APARTMENTS

JP Arboretum area, 2 bedrooms, hardwood floors, sunny, owner occupied, triple decker insulated quiet street, garden near MBTA, nopets or smokers, \$850/month, leave message after Aug. 5 522-0345, available August or Sept. (6)

DORCHESTER

6-room, 2-bedroom, 2nd floor beautifully restored. Refinished floors, natural woodwork, built-in china, eat-in kitchen. Frost-free refrigerator. Available 9/1, \$575 plus heat and utilities. Owner occupied. Call John (617) 282-3216. (6)

FOR RENT SEPT. — 3 RM APT.

Sunny, hwd. flrs. Off street parking, bus route. 15 min. to Braintree, rural. \$520 plus heat. 767-2336. (7)

SUMMER RENTALS

P-TOWN, BEACHPPOINT

Newly renov. condo, fully equipped, sleeps four. Parking, pool, very private. Beach access. \$400/wk. Call John (617) 369-2872 or Brenda (617) 576-1960. (6)

Enjoy Provincetown in September after the summer rush and retreat to peace and quiet — 2 bedroom, parking, weekly-monthly, call 487-0757. (7)

MARTHAS VINEYARD

3 bedroom house, ocean view, deck, washer/dryer, dishwasher, fireplace available, Aug. 1-31, 2 weeks or month call now. 731-1576. (6)

FOR SALE

PROVINCETOWN

Art gallery, studio space, 1,165 sq. ft., centrally located. Beautiful lighting, \$90,000 — lots of possibilities — buy alone or as a group — keep overhead low. (617) 487-0757. (7)

Lovely Beacon Hill Townhouse 4/5 bedrooms plus income apt. Top location. Brand new renovation; old Boston charm. 3200 sq. ft. \$950K. 723-4444, 353-1294. Principals only. (6)

VACATIONS

GREENHOPE FARM

Escape to the peace and privacy of Vermont. Secluded lesbian farm offers veg. cuisine, cozy rooms with views and daily trail rides on our own gentle horses. Waterfall skinny dipping. Early fall foliage. (802) 533-7772. (9)

DISCOVER NEW ENGLAND'S GAY INN

Spend long, lazy days by the pool and cool nights by a crackling fire or in our hot tub. Our 100 acre mountain setting offers peace, privacy, beautiful views, spectacular sunsets and lovely paths for walking hand-in-hand. Great hiking, reduced rate golf, tennis, antiquing and summer theater nearby. *The Highlands Inn*, PO Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Inkeepers. (16.7)



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Provincetown, Mass. 02657
617/487-2210

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Visa

ORGANIZATIONS

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free, bulletin \$1. NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 482-7858 for info. (15.32)



**CHILTERN
MOUNTAIN CLUB**

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lesbians and gay men. For further
information, please write.


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Our 10th Year Anniversary

Michael
787-0428

Kitty
282-6437

PUBLICATIONS



**gay
COMMUNITY
NEWS**

**GCN Subscriptions, 62 Berkeley St.,
Boston, MA 02116.**

BAD ATTITUDE

A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$10 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

TOXIC-WASTE

Living near it? Get the government confirmed site listing. Send \$10 to: Toxlist, 252 Kennedy Dr., #410, Malden, MA 02148. (5)

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

available at GCN. Copies of abstracts of about 3,000 presentations made at the Stockholm AIDS conference in June 1988 are available at GCN for \$100.00. Contact Marc Stein, (617) 426-4469. (7)

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, P.O. Box 2490, Washington, DC 20013. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

A journal of woman-to-woman s/m. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/four issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

PUBLICATIONS

WOMAN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16.--)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer—4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011. (ex)

off our backs

Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

**TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON,
WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.**
Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist

— SELF-EDUCATION —

Many people in prison have practically no 'education' and are trying to get their 'General Education Diploma' (GED). If you have any old GED material or know of where we can get some, please be in touch. THANKS!



For those of you with a 'spiritual' side, you can get a free copy of a prisoner meditation and other support book called **WE'RE ALL DOING TIME**, by writing Prison Ashram Project, Rt 1 Box 201-N, Durham NC 27705.

We have just come across a **GREAT** prisoner support publication, anarchist (against bosses) and also supportive of Native American Indian rights and women's rights. They don't say they are free to prisoners, but maybe if you write them and say you're a political prisoner and at least leaning in the anarchist direction, they'd send you one (!). They're at: **BAYOU LA ROSE, PO Box 2576, San Diego CA 92112.**

IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE

Gay Prisoners & Protective Custody
Write GCN Prisoner Project, 62 Berkeley, Boston MA 02116, for a copy of the legal issues & cases on getting into PC (if you want), and on getting out of PC (or Ad Seg or whatever they're calling it where you are).



E.C. NIEDERS says: Ronnie and Rob, write me. Our plans are still on. Jeff, Angel, Wizard, Renee, John, Venus, Roxanne, Kevin & Michael, please write me at my permanent address: Dutch Nieders, 10 Colonial Terr, Brockton MA 02401.

Since I'll still be here for a while, I'd like some penpals. Butch, intelligent, friendly, sociology major, financially independent, would like to write someone for friendship, especially anyone interested in shoe manufacturing. **E.C. Dutch NIEDERS, C-07549, Box 1902-A (8-B-103), Tehachapi CA 93561.**

When I sweat I look like a **HERSHEY Bar!** Would like to write to guys from all over. No head games please. Rack, age does not matter. A picture is a plus. The chocolate is sweet, the rap is deep, I need it bad! Victorious **DAVIES, 86A 0460, Drawer B, Stormville NY 12582.**

I enjoy backpacking, riding, and quiet evenings with someone special. Also enjoy working out. Thank you GCN for being there when I need a friend most! **David EVANS, 49515, CTCF-SM, Box 1010, Canon City CO 81212**

GM, shoulder-length hair, super sexy Scorpio, huggable, educated, and lonely. Would like to share thoughts, expressions, a few moments now and then. **Terry HALL, 84950, 3CH (14R-16), Box 128, Eddyville KY 42038.**

Male, 30, athletically built, intelligent warm, seeks lasting and honestly open friendship with those seeking the same. **Ray SIGMOND, 160-382, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.**

Very strong built Blackman needs a friend who don't mind corresponding. Right now everybody needs somebody. Please write. **Michael WILLIAMS, Y-9162, Drawer K, Dallas PA 18612.**

MOVERS

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HOWARD MOVING



31 yr old Black Gay Woman, Libra, outspoken, yet a believer in Personal Solitude, seeks correspondence with other women for mind stimulation and an exchange of ideas. I want to write Free World women and other prisoners. Actually, anyone who strives for knowledge as I do! You have nothing to lose, but possibly much to gain. **Toni RICHMOND, Rikers Island, 349-88-16363, 19-19 Hazen St, East Elmhurst, NY 11370.**

I'm born under the sign of Capricorn. I'm 39 and not the aggressive type of person. I'd like to meet a 'real' person who'd like to develop a friendship etc. **Rita HAMILTON, CLU-N8 No.7, 2800 Gravier ST, New Orleans LA 70119**

FREE to Lesbian Prisoners

Common Lives/Lesbian Lives
PO Box 1553, Iowa City IA 52244

Reclaiming
Box 14404, San Francisco CA 94114

Sinister Wisdom
Box 3252, Berkeley CA 94703

Off Our Backs
1841 Columbia Rd NW (212), Wash DC 12469

Maize—Word Weavers
Box 8742, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Lesbian Contradiction
584 Castro St.(263), San Francisco CA 94114

Goddess Rising
4006 First Ave NE, Seattle WA 98105

Lesbian Connection (Diner Women's Ctr)
PO Box 811, East Lansing MI 48826

Waves (Puget Sounds Progressive Voice)
1017-B East Pike, Seattle WA 98122

Woman of Power
Box 827, Cambridge MA 02238

PRISON JOURNAL

The prison is a symbol of our failure as a society: too easy compartmentalizing of normality and deviance, legality and criminality; too unjust distribution of 'wealth' and 'security'.

Our next issue will focus on Women and Prison. We welcome articles, stories, poems, and letters from prisoners everywhere.

PRISON JOURNAL, full of stories, essays and poems about prison life, is available for FREE to prisoners. Write them for a copy at: Prison Journal, Simon Fraser Continuing Studies, Burnaby BC, Canada V5A 1S6. (Postage is 30 cents)



I'm looking for penpals to help pass away the time by letter writing to each other. I enjoy the outdoors, am very outgoing and open minded about a lot of things. Looking for someone who would like to become good friends, or even more. **Dale E. KNECE, 182-552, Box 57, Marion OH 43302.**

Do you believe in NAMBLA? If so, let's communicate. I also like traveling, walking through parks and on beaches, autos and racing, and some reading. Bowling occasionally too. Would like to hear from free world people, but will write prisoners too. **Randy MEIBURG, 387931, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.**

So far I have been reading your paper for about a year and it is Fantastic! I'm a bi-male, 27, like poetry, and many other things and would like to write to someone in the free world (not allowed to write prisoners). **Roger LUKE, 873097, Box 473, Westville IN 46391.**

Gay male seeking correspondent/friend, as I am willing to be the same. I enjoy reading, skiing (though I'm not doing much of it right now), and meeting new people. Letter and photo gets mine. **Craig P FORNARO, 481998, Rt 1 Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.**



calendar



Marian Roth

13 Saturday ☐ Kate Clinton explains the ten warning signs of lesbianism. At Provincetown's Post Office Cafe through 8/31. Info: (508) 487-3892.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged.

13 Saturday

Boston ☐ Gay Professional Women host **Annual Harbor Cruise**. DJ dancing, room for 400 women. Rowes Wharf, Mass Bay Lines. 7:30pm. \$12. Info: 585-6051 after 8pm.

Boston ☐ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** presents a workshop to collect the experiences and stories of those connected in any way with the AIDS crisis every Saturday. The goal is to create a theater music piece based on the workshop material. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Provincetown ☐ Singer/songwriter **Erica Wheeler** live every Thu., Fri., Sat. evening at Different Ducks. 5-7pm. Info: 508/487-9648.

Boston ☐ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. Meets Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the South End. Info: 574-9433.

Boston ☐ **Saturday Coffeehouse** featuring live entertainment, refreshments. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 8pm-midnight. \$3.50. Info: 547-5209.

Worcester ☐ Worcester County Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance Community **Outing/Picnic**. Rutland State Park. Follow the pink triangles. 12:30pm on. Info: 508/798-3303.

No. Conway, NH ☐ **Gay Men's Social Association** get acquainted party on Conway Lake in very private area. Clothes-optional swimming. Bring your own food/drink. Info: Paul or Alan 603/367-8304.

Provincetown ☐ **Kate Clinton** performs daily through 8/31. Post Office Cafe, 303 Commercial St. 5pm. Info: 508/487-3892.

Somerville ☐ **Photo exhibit** of Peace and Social Justice by Ellen Shub. Through 8/29/88. Somerville Public Library auditorium, Highland Ave. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. 9am-6pm. Info: 623-S000.

Boston ☐ **Gay Boston**, a weekly cable program with Candace Van Auken, this week features Lea Deloria and Kelly Edwards from the musical comedy "Dos Lesbos." Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Boston ☐ "The Dating Game for Men" to benefit Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

14 Sunday

Boston ☐ **Bingo**, benefactor to be announced. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Boston ☐ **Downtown Lesbian** Neighborhood Group meets for brunch. All lesbians living in Back Bay, South End, and Downtown Boston are invited. Info: Joan, 266-5169.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors Potluck Picnic**. Bring a favorite dish to share and a non-alcoholic beverage. All new and old friends welcome. Jamaica Pond, entrance at Open Door Theater sign, opposite Moraine St. on the Jamaicaway. Rain location: Unitarian Church on Centre St. 4-7pm. Info: Kenn 524-8337, Liz 522-3894.

Somerville ☐ Somerville **Lesbian potluck**. Bring food and non-alcoholic beverage. 6pm. Info: 628-7487.

Belmont ☐ **Girth & Mirth** of New England annual picnic. (Rescheduled.) Info: Joe 926-5827, Michael 641-1044.

Boston ☐ Boston's first **Black Lesbian/Gay Pride Tea Dance**. Buffet included. Open to all. Sponsored by Niobi Productions; proceeds will go toward future activities. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 4-8pm. \$5.

Boston ☐ Metro Healing presents **ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Sunday. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Worcester ☐ **AIDS Project Worcester Pledge Dance** to raise money for AIDS care and services, called "Dancing for Our Lives." Club 241, 241 Southbridge St. 7-11pm. Info: 508/755-3773.

Roxbury ☐ **South African Women's Day**. Speakers include a representative of the ANC. With a Flea Market and Women's Fair. Music, food, games, literature tables. First Church in Roxbury, corner of Dudley and Putnam Sts. 1-5pm. Info: 661-1652.

Gloucester ☐ Join **Am Tikva** for a beach outing at Good Harbor. Meet at 9am at Workmen's Circle, Brookline, to car pool, or at snack bar at beach at 10:30am. Info: Michael 965-2423.

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** special guests Stephanie Poggi and Marc Stein represent **Gay Community News**. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

15 Monday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "Sexual Vulnerability." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club** summer practice every Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm. No experience necessary. Info: Mel 536-4943, message 932-5401.

Boston ☐ Reception in support of the **United Farm Workers of America**. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Fenway Garden Cafe, 100 Peterborough St. 6:30-8:30pm. \$20.

16 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ Evening of **prayer, meditation, & discussion for all affected by AIDS**. Third Tuesday of each month. Christ Church, Zero Garden St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: 876-0200.

Boston ☐ **Bisexual Networks potluck and meeting** on the future of the network phone line. 7:30pm. Info: 247-6683.

Boston ☐ **Chiltern Mountain Club** evening bike ride along the Charles. 3 or 4 easy miles from the B.U. area to the Hatch Shell to share some food. Info: Michael 522-9194.

Providence, RI ☐ **ACT-UP Rhode Island** has meetings open to the public every Tuesday. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. ACT-UP RI, PO Box 3156; Wayland Square Station, Providence, RI 02906. Info: Bill 617/782-9063.

Boston, Cambridge ☐ The 4th Annual **International Women's Day Video** Festival, part 4. Cablecast in Boston on BNN-TV, ch.A3; in Camb. on CC-TV, ch.19. Produced by Deep Dish TV, the national public access satellite network. Info in Boston: 422-7292, in Camb.: 255-2500.

17 Wednesday

Boston ☐ **Boston Bisexual Men's Network** newsletter mailing. Women welcome. 8pm. Info: 247-6683.

Boston ☐ **Boston NOW** Lesbian Rights Task Force. 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. Free. Info: 782-1056.

Boston ☐ Jean Genet's "The Maids," with "The Butler," a new play by Kenneth MacDonald. Performed by The Winter Company. Wed.-Sat., through 8/27. New Ehrlich Theatre, 539 Tremont St. 8pm. \$10 (exc. Wed., \$10 for 2). Info: 523-2966.

Boston ☐ **NAMES Project** general meeting to plan the Washington, D.C. display. Piemonte Rm., City Hall (use back door). Info: Marc 426-4469 (days).

Lawrence ☐ Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health presents a performance of "AIDS: It's No Joke," aimed at inner-city adolescents. Lawrence Housing Authority Projects. Time TBA (a.m. & p.m.). Info: 727-0368, 727-0049.

Somerville ☐ The 4th Annual **International Women's Day Video** Festival, part 4. Cablecast on SCAT, ch.3. (See 8/16 listing.) Info: 628-8826.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

18 Thursday

Boston ☐ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston ☐ **Summer Dance Party** for women and their friends. To benefit the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Lawrence ☐ "AIDS: It's No Joke." (See 8/17 listing.)

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbians coming out as bisexual** support group meets in Boylston Hall, Room 2B, Harvard U. 7:30pm. Info: 646-1295 or 508/922-9502.

Cambridge ☐ **Sara Laughs** performs at TT The Bear's, Central Sq. 9pm. Info: 492-0082.

Cambridge ☐ **Wise Woman Tradition** sponsored by the Healers' Resource Center. Explore herbal medicine and spirit healing. 5 Upland Rd., Porter Sq. 7-10pm. \$8. Info: 864-1989.

19 Friday

Boston ☐ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston ☐ **The Newlybed Game for Men**, to benefit **Gay Community News**. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Worcester ☐ **AIDS Project** — Worcester **support group** meets every Friday night for HIV positive, PWA's, PWARC's, lovers, friends, and the worried well. Open to all lesbians and gay men regardless of HIV status. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana, 508/755-3773.

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Coffeehouse**, this week a celebration of the life of Gena Glicklich. Fern Weiss and friends read Gena's erotic writings. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ **Ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Friday. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

20 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Community Feud**, to benefit the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Saco, ME ☐ **GAYLA X**, the 10th Anniversary Gay Men's Conference. All gay men welcome to gather and enjoy, play, share, grow, and celebrate gayness. Ferry Beach, 8/20-27. Info: David Smith 602/978-3431 (Arizona), or Ferry Beach Park Ass'n. 207/282-4489 (Maine).

Cambridge ☐ **Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society** monthly meeting. 1pm. Info: The Gaylaxians, PO Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

Provincetown ☐ **Fred Small and Patty Larkin** in concert in "A Night With the Folks." The Meeting House Benefit Series. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial St. 8pm. \$10.

Boston ☐ **Gay Boston**, a weekly cable program with Candace Van Auken, this week features former members of the clergy. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

21 Sunday

Nantasket ☐ Brookline/Brighton/Allston **Lesbian potluck**, Nantasket outing. Info: 232-7477.

Boston ☐ **Stevie Wonder** performs in a benefit for the **AIDS Action Committee**. Boston Common. \$35 (choice seats). Info: 536-0972.

Lowell ☐ Gay in the Merrimack Valley **monthly potluck**. Bring a dish to share. First Grace Fellowship Hall, 79 Florence Ave. 6pm. Info: David 508/452-4686.

Boston ☐ **Bingo**, to benefit Gay Fathers of Greater Boston. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." Moon Shine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Ogunquit, ME ☐ **Gays and Lesbians of Watertown (GLOW)** annual Ogunquit trip. All are welcome. Info: Rich 926-5371, Chelle 489-2519.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Amethyst Women** picnic and softball. For lesbians recovering from alcoholism and their women friends. Alcohol-free beverages provided. Pine Bank off the Jamaicaway. Noon-5pm.

Provincetown ☐ **June and Jean Millington** in concert. The Meeting House Benefit Series. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial St. 8pm. \$10.

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** hosts representatives from the Broadway show, "Cats," and from Hospice West. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

**CALENDAR COMPILED BY
TODD HOLLISTER**

By Chris Reed

Gay life in England is not at the moment either very gay or very English. Under the shadow of the recently enacted law prohibiting municipality governments from sponsoring any activity that might "promote" homosexuality, the lesbian/gay scene consists increasingly of meetings and demonstrations, with U.S. gay rights activism the explicit model. About five years behind the United States in the epidemiological course of AIDS, the lesbian/gay community in Britain is gearing up for the inevitable onslaught of sickness and death, again turning to the U.S. experience for guidance. With so many lesbian and gay eyes here staring westward across the Atlantic, a North American in London can feel he might just as well have stayed home. That is, until the discovery of one particularly English twist on gay male culture, the striptease. So gay-affirmative, class-busting, coalition-building, and generally euphoria-inspiring is this entertainment that combines uninhibited sexual display with radical sexual critique; I call it the "strip-tique."

It may seem odd that a society with far more restrictive pornography legislation than the U.S. should have the striptease enshrined as a staple of popular entertainment. Quite mainstream pubs will have a buxom beauty in of a weekday evening to doff her clothes for a mixed-sex audience that gathers after work. I hasten to add that this is neither lesbian/gay-affirmative nor class-busting, not coalition-building or euphoria-inspiring, and certainly no critique of established notions of sexuality. On the contrary, it seems to demonstrate the same sort of blatant hypocrisy manifest in a tabloid paper notorious for its daily combination of a topless female centerfold with articles condemning the "immorality" of "poufs" and "queers."

What is gay-affirmative and all the rest of it, however, is the translation of the striptease tradition into gay male pub culture. I'm not talking here about the Studio 54-type discos in central London, but the gay pubs that dot the working class suburbs. Here the locals gather and mix with the trendier center-city crowd. There is dancing, food (sausage and the inevitable chips), and entertainment. Often the show is



Depiction of Thatcher's attempt to eliminate trade unions, nationalized gas services, public health services, gay rights, etc. as a striptease

The English 'Strip-tique'

I have seen the future and it is standing around a suburban pub watching some guy take his clothes off

a drag act, with a series of well-known stars, many of whom have been at it for years, making the circuit of London and the provinces. But throughout the year, excitement (mine anyway) has been building, as each local pub has advertised its own Amateur Male Stripper Contest. A mixture of intellectual curiosity, libido, political despair, libido, general boredom, and libido drew your intrepid GCN roving reporter to the final "heat."

The gay pub sponsoring the contest finals turned out to be the function room of a solid and straight neighborhood pub, no doubt the scene of wedding receptions and golden anniversary parties since the reign of Victoria. There was a dance floor and music featuring a good many golden English oldies announced as such by the DJ, though the tunes meant nothing to me — English girl groups doing Motown with more enthusiasm than authenticity. The bar staff, which seemed to be a mix of male and female, gay and straight, was more friendly than at any downtown club.

The crowd was mainly gay men, but included lots of big groups with some women. And there was more racial diversity than I've seen in many English settings. When the pub downstairs closed, a contingent of straight couples ranging in age from 16 to 60 arrived to dance, though they were still safely outnumbered by same-sex huggers and smoochers.

Now the scene was set and the big event began. A space was cleared in the middle of the dance floor, and the contestants, each the winner of his neighborhood pub's qualifying round, began to strut their stuff. One by one, they went, in the words of the old song, "about as far as they could go." And then they went further. Yes, down to everything but the odd dog-collar, sweatband, or bangle, depending on each individual's aesthetic. They strutted and pranced, and encouraged a degree of audience participation — ooh those lucky girls who got to pull the cowboy boots off the blond one, or the guy who undid the button on the boxer shorts of the cute little one. The audience at this point still consisted mainly of gay men, but with a smattering of apparently heterosexual women straining to

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